

**FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA**

# FFA



**25<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY**  
1928 • 1953

*Silver Anniversary*  
**PROCEEDINGS**

**October 12-15, 1953**

**MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM • KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI**

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Montpelier, Vermont

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# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL  
CONVENTION



*Future Farmers of America*

Held at

MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

OCTOBER 12-15, 1953

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Prepared and Published by the Future Farmers of America in cooperation with  
the Office of Education, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

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*Printed by FRENCH-BRAY Co., Baltimore*





## INTRODUCTION

The Future Farmers of America is the national organization of boys studying vocational agriculture in public secondary schools under the provisions of the National Vocational Education Acts. Launched at Kansas City in November 1928, the organization has continued to develop rapidly. On June 30, 1953, the active membership totaled 363,369 in 8,569 chapters of 48 States, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

The primary aim of the Future Farmers of America organization is the development of agricultural leadership, cooperation, citizenship and patriotism. Other purposes include: strengthening the confidence of farm boys and young men in themselves and their work; more intelligent choice of farming occupations; creating and nurturing a love of country life; improving the rural home and its surroundings; encouraging cooperative effort; encouraging thrift; improving scholarship; providing organized recreational activities for rural people; and supplementing, by means of boy-initiated and boy-directed activities, the systematic instruction offered to prospective young farmers regularly enrolled in day-school vocational agriculture courses.

The Future Farmers of America organization of voluntary membership has taken its place with other agencies interested in the upbuilding of agriculture and the improvement of country life. National headquarters of the Future Farmers of America is located in the Office of Education, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington 25, D. C. National conventions are held annually at Kansas City, Missouri.

The Twenty-Sixth National Convention of the Future Farmers of America was held at the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Missouri, October 12 through 15, 1953. Delegates were present from 50 chartered associations. Approximately 12,000 individuals attended the convention.

These proceedings constitute a yearbook on organization activities. The complete minutes of the Convention sessions are included, along with certain other important material which is supplementary to or explanatory to the convention activities. Press releases, as well as certain newspaper accounts, were used in compiling parts of this publication. Thanks are due to Mr. John J. Farrar, Director of Public Relations and Information for the FFA, Miss Veronica Horan, Miss Virginia Nicholson and Mrs. Irene W. Shafer for their assistance in the preparation of material for this publication.

A. W. TENNEY  
National Executive Secretary

## OFFICIAL DELEGATES

**National Convention, Future Farmers of America  
Kansas City, Missouri      October 12-15, 1953**

Alabama.....	Ralph Barrett.....	Cameron Lyle
	Rt. 1, Dora	Electric
Arizona.....	Bob Moore.....	Gordon Hall
	Rt. 1, Box 300, Peoria	Box 413, Queen Creek
Arkansas.....	Morris Morgan.....	Jerry Moss
	Lake Village	Harrison
California.....	James R. Campbell.....	Leo W. Clark
	RFD Box 125, Lompoc	15360 Hesperian Blvd., San Lorenzo
Colorado.....	Douglas Tomky.....	Millard Blanch
	Brush	Yuma
Connecticut.....	Michael Dugan.....	Dwight Lyman
	RFD No. 1, Bethel	Box 142, Talcottville
Delaware.....	David H. Elliott.....	James Carpenter
	Laurel	Milton
Florida.....	Eugene Mixon.....	Billy Gunter
	Rt. 2, Bradenton	Box 278, Live Oak
Georgia.....	Allen Tabor.....	Wesley Patrick
	Route 1, Fort Valley	Quitman
Hawaii.....	Norman Gonsalves.....	Donald Toma
	Haina	Box 291, Waipahu, Oohu
Idaho.....	Dwight Spaulding.....	Arvin Budge
	Rt. 1, Rexburg	Rt. 2, Payette
Illinois.....	Harlan Rigney.....	Gary E. Mueller
	Red Oak	Reynolds
Indiana.....	Eugene Penn.....	Gene Weaver
	Rt. 2, North Manchester	Rt. 1, Aurora
Iowa.....	Donald B. Boldt.....	Howard L. Linder
	Jesup	Sigourney
Kansas.....	Billy Ray James.....	Nelson Galle
	Clay Center	Moundridge
Kentucky.....	Lawrence Hall.....	John Thomas Shields
	Rt. 3, Princeton	Rt. 2, Shelbyville
Louisiana.....	Billy Pesnell.....	Gerald Simmons
	Ruston	Simmsport
Maine.....	James A. Gallagher.....	Harvey P. Wood
	Limestone	Rt. 1, Fairfield
Maryland.....	Edward Brown.....	Franklin Robinson
	Salisbury	Brandywine
Massachusetts.....	George Johnson, Jr.....	Henry Archambault
	Cedar St., West Barnstable	14 Westford St., Haverhill
Michigan.....	Richard Arnold.....	Kenneth Austin
	Rt. 1, Plainwell	Route 2, Ovid
Minnesota.....	Duane Baringer.....	Harlan Hanson
	RR 4, Red Wing	Ortonville
Mississippi.....	Bobby Lee Kirk.....	John Cole
	Rt. 1, Doddsville	Enid
Missouri.....	Alan King.....	Roland Miller
	Dadeville	Cameron

Montana.....	Charles Schwend.....	Albert H. Groskinsky Rt. 2, Sidney
Nebraska.....	Arley Waldo..... DeWitt	Roger Standage Poole
Nevada.....	Philip Reber..... Mesquit	Keith Whipple Hiko
New Hampshire.....	Graydon L. Lyons..... Colebrook	Raymond Dolloff, Jr. Chester
New Jersey.....	Paul Cooper..... Sewell	John Roy RD, Andover
New Mexico.....	Darwin Crockett..... Rt. 1, Lovington	Phil Smith P.O. Box 418, Lovington
New York.....	Joseph Martin..... Churchville	Donald Brotzman Woodhull
North Carolina.....	Bobby Futrelle..... Rt. 3, Mt. Olive	Royce Hagaman Rt. 1, Zionville
North Dakota.....	Warner Johnson..... Rt. 1, Tunbridge	Carl Haugeberg Max
Ohio.....	Richard Leuthold..... RR 5, Bucyrus	Dale Ring RR, Wooster
Oklahoma.....	Barton Ridling..... Rocky	Max Berry Lambert
Oregon.....	Duane Rencken..... Rt. 2, Box 245, Milton-Freewater	Roger Fendall Rt. 3, Box 110, Newberg
Pennsylvania.....	Frank Wilson..... Star Rt., Montrose	Robert Worley Mercer
Puerto Rico.....	Victor D. Marrero..... Arecibo	Pedro M. Rivera San German
Rhode Island.....	Anthony Soares..... Portsmouth	John Westlake North Kingstown
South Carolina.....	Emmett McCracken, Jr..... Bluffton	Harry Chapman, Jr. Rt. 1, Greenville
South Dakota.....	Lowell Gisselbeck..... Castlewood	Raymond Abraham Elk Point
Tennessee.....	Joe Moore..... Granville	Alvin Banner Erwin
Texas.....	Joe Dan Boyd..... Rt. 3, Winnsboro	Billy Paul Russell Rt. 5, Pittsburg
Utah.....	Jerold Johnson..... Salina	Robert Hunsaker Brigham City
Vermont.....	David K. Brown..... Strafford	Roland Burroughs Newbury
Virginia.....	Lennie Gamage..... Cartersville	Bruce Ayers Rt. 1, Stuart
Washington.....	Larry Richner..... Glacier Star Route, Deming	Bob Zeller Rt. 1, Box 488, Graham
West Virginia.....	Charles Wellings, Jr..... Troy	Jerry Gass Buckhannon
Wisconsin.....	Merle Krueger..... Rt. 2, Black Creek	Glen Wright RFD, Amery
Wyoming.....	Bill Shepard..... Wheatland	John Tanner Big Piney

# NATIONAL FFA PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

MAIN ARENA, MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 12—8:00 P. M.

## CHAIRMAN

Jimmy Dillon, National President of FFA

Opening Ceremony

Music—National FFA Band, Henry S. Brunner, Pennsylvania State College,  
conducting

Explanation of Contest

Drawing for Speaking Order

## SPEAKERS

Dan True, Twin Falls, Idaho

*"Conservation of the Farm"*

Roger Adamson, Cherryvale, Kansas

*"Our Soil and Our Freedom"*

Richard Kuga, Honolulu, Hawaii

*"Farmers, Let's Cooperate!"*

Philip Anderson, Jr., Marked Tree, Arkansas

*"The Benevolent Monster"*

Richard Whetsell, Kingwood, West Virginia

*"Today's Dreams—Tomorrow's Realities"*

Music—National FFA Chorus, James W. Hatch, New York State Department of  
Education, conducting

Presentation of Awards

Closing Ceremony

## JUDGES

W. A. ROSS, Special Assistant to Director of the Training & Educational Office,  
Civil Defense Administration, Washington, D. C.

OLIVER S. WILLHAM, President, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College,  
Stillwater, Oklahoma

M. D. MOBLEY, Secretary, American Vocational Association, Washington, D. C.

## TIMEKEEPERS

MAX W. FORESMAN, Director of Public & Employee Relations, Spencer Chemical  
Co., Kansas City, Missouri

DUWARD DEWITT, Youth Director, Consumers Cooperative Association, Kansas  
City, Missouri

## CONVENTION PROGRAM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

8:00 A. M. Registration, Grand Foyer, Municipal Auditorium

9:00 A. M. Opening Session, Main Arena, Municipal Auditorium

Opening Ceremony

Band Concert—National FFA Band

Invocation—Alton Brazell, National Vice President, 1949

Report on Delegate Credentials

Roll Call of States and Seating of Delegates

Address of Welcome—William E. Kemp, Mayor of Kansas City,  
Missouri

Minutes of Twenty-Fifth National Convention—Jimmy Willis,  
National Student Secretary

Appointment of Constitutional Committees



Addresses of Retiring Officers  
Nomination of Honorary American Farmers—W. T. Spanton,  
Chief, Agricultural Education Branch, Office of Education,  
Washington, D. C.  
Treasurer's Report—Dowell J. Howard, State Superintendent of  
Public Instruction, Richmond, Virginia  
Interview with Participants in International Youth Exchange—  
David Boyne, Philip Brouillette, John Pickthall and James  
Muir  
Executive Secretary's Report—A. W. Tenney, Agricultural Edu-  
cation Branch, Office of Education, Washington, D. C.

First Day of Issue Ceremony  
*of the*

Commemorative Postage Stamp  
*honoring the*

Future Farmers of America

Music—National FFA Band and Chorus  
Remarks—Jimmy Dillon, National President of FFA  
Address—Honorable Albert J. Robertson, Assistant Postmaster  
General of the United States  
Presentation of Stamp Albums  
Remarks by Recipients of Albums  
Calling to Platform of Presidents of State FFA Associations  
Unveiling of Commemorative Stamp—  
Honorable Albert J. Robertson  
"America"—Led by National FFA Band and Chorus  
Closing Ceremony

2:00 P. M. Second Session, Main Arena, Municipal Auditorium  
Opening Ceremony  
Music—Chillicothe, Missouri, String Band  
Greetings—Future Farmers of Canada  
Presentation of Awards in National Chapter Contest  
Music—Lake Village, Arkansas, String Band  
Conferring of Honorary American Farmer Degrees  
American Farmer Degree Ceremony  
Closing Ceremony

7:30 P. M. Third Session, Main Arena, Municipal Auditorium  
Opening Ceremony  
Music—National FFA Band and Chorus  
Massing of the State Flags—State Star Farmers  
Presentation of Star American Farmer Awards  
Recessional  
Closing Ceremony  
Special Entertainment—Courtesy, Firestone Tire and Rubber  
Company

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

9:00 A. M. Fourth Session, Main Arena, Municipal Auditorium  
Opening Ceremony  
Unfinished Business  
New Business  
Greetings from Past National FFA Officers  
Addresses of Retiring Officers

10:00 A. M. Silver Anniversary Pageant  
Closing Ceremony

1:00 P. M. Tours to Points of Interest



- 2:00 P. M. Fifth Session, Main Arena, Municipal Auditorium  
 Opening Ceremony  
 Appointment of Committees  
 Recess for Committee Work  
 Closing Ceremony
- 8:00 P. M. Sixth Session, Main Arena, Municipal Auditorium  
 Opening Ceremony  
 Music—National FFA Band and Chorus  
 Calling to the Platform Representatives of Donors to the Future  
 Farmers of America Foundation, Inc.  
 Introduction of Platform Guests  
 Presentation of Future Farmers of America Foundation, Inc.  
 Awards  
 Farm Mechanics  
 Farm Electrification  
 Music—Wimauma, Florida, String Band  
 Dairy Farming  
 Soil and Water Management  
 Music—Wimauma, Florida, String Band  
 Farm Safety  
 Closing Ceremony  
 House of Magic—Courtesy, General Electric Company

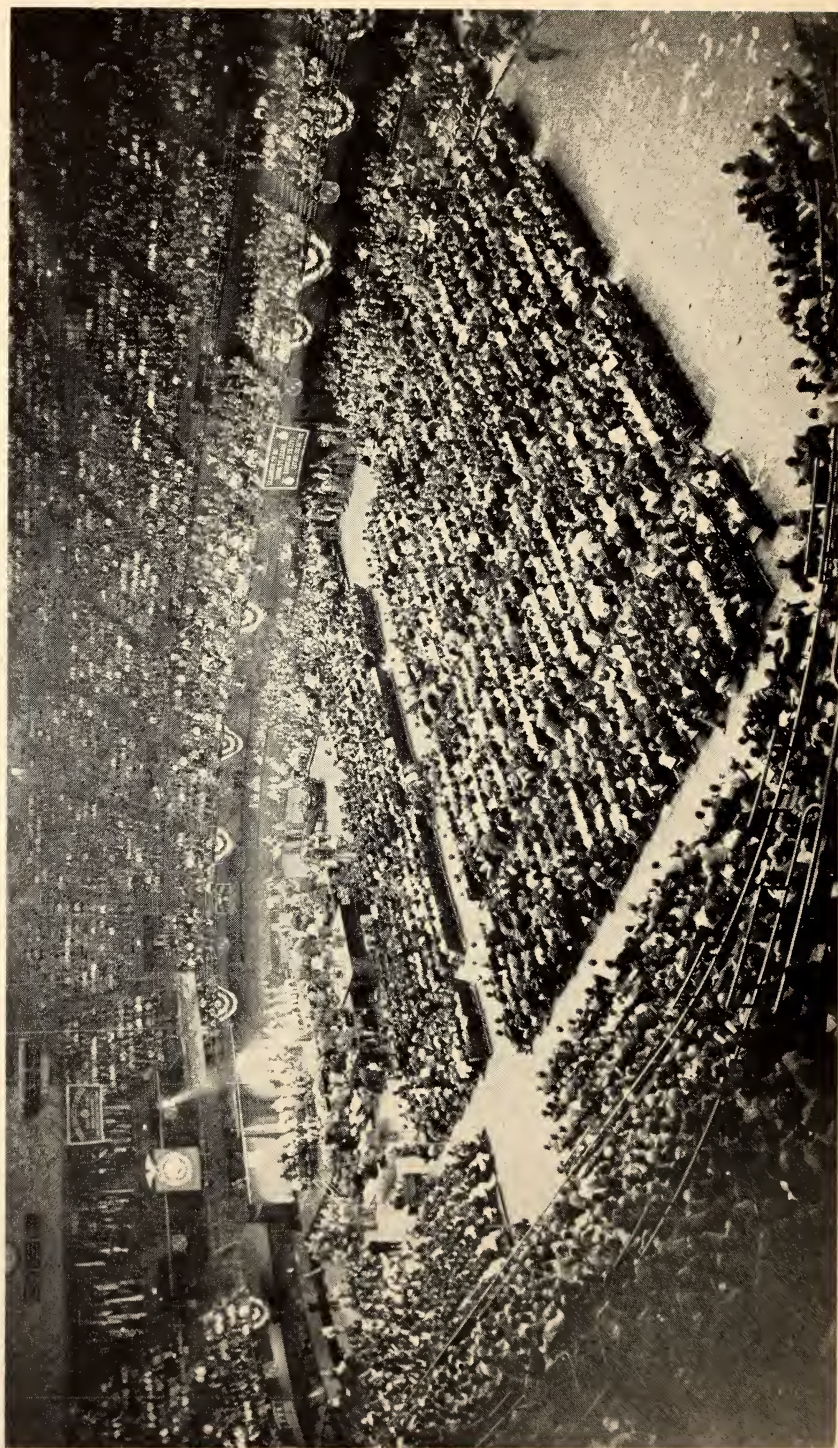
## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

- 9:00 A. M. Seventh Session, Main Arena, Municipal Auditorium  
 Opening Ceremony  
 Music—Agawam, Massachusetts, Orchestra  
 Addresses of Retiring Officers  
 New Business  
 Greetings from Youth Organizations  
 Committee Reports  
 Music—National FFA Band  
 Address—Honorable Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.  
 Closing Ceremony
- 2:00 P. M. Eighth Session, Main Arena, Municipal Auditorium  
 Opening Ceremony  
 Music—National FFA Chorus  
 Address—Honorable Oveta Culp Hobby, Secretary, Department of Health, Education, & Welfare, Washington, D. C.  
 New Business  
 Presentation of Budget for 1954-55  
 Report of Nominating Committee  
 Election of Officers  
 Greetings from Incoming Officers  
 Installation of New Officers  
 Presentation of Past Officers' Pins and Certificates by New President  
 Closing Ceremony
- 7:30 P. M. Ninth Session, Main Arena, Municipal Auditorium  
 Opening Ceremony  
 Music—National FFA Band and Chorus  
 Introduction of Platform Guests  
 Address—The Honorable Dwight David Eisenhower,  
 The President of the United States  
 Star-Spangled Banner  
 Closing Ceremony

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
National Directory .....	Inside Cover
Introduction .....	III
Official Delegates .....	IV
Program .....	VI
Minutes of the 26th National Convention :	
Monday, October 12.....	11
Tuesday, October 13.....	11
Wednesday, October 14.....	22
Thursday, October 15.....	24
Committee Reports :	
Auditing .....	30
American Farmer .....	30
Chapter Contest .....	31
Code of Ethics .....	32
National Convention .....	34
FFA Foundation .....	34
National Magazine .....	35
Official Manual .....	35
Nominating .....	36
Public Relations .....	37
Public Speaking .....	38
Proceedings .....	38
Program of Work .....	39
Resolutions .....	50
Convention Speakers :	
Albert J. Robertson.....	53
Oveta Culp Hobby.....	54
Ezra Taft Benson.....	55
Dwight David Eisenhower.....	57
National Student Officer Reports.....	66
Report of National Executive Secretary.....	82
Report of National Treasurer.....	89
Awards and Contests.....	95
Farm Mechanics .....	95
Farm Electrification .....	96
Dairy Farming .....	96
Soil and Water Management.....	97
Farm Safety .....	93
Chapter Contest .....	100
Star Farmer Awards.....	103
Public Speaking Contest.....	112





More than 12,000 Future Farmers listened to an address by the Honorable Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States.

# Minutes of the Convention

**Monday, October 12, 1953**

## Evening Session

The Future Farmers of America twenty-sixth national convention convened in the Main Arena of the Municipal Auditorium, Kansas City, Missouri, at eight o'clock. National President Jimmy Dillon, of Jones, Louisiana, presiding. National Vice Presidents Malcolm Ellis, Fred Reed, Jr., Bill Sorem, and Donald R. Travis were present as well as Student Secretary Jimmy Willis; Advisor W. T. Spanton; Executive Secretary A. W. Tenney and Treasurer Dowell J. Howard.

Following the opening ceremony the National FFA Band presented a concert.

An explanation of the National FFA Public Speaking Contest was given by President Dillon. The speakers then drew for speaking order. Following the speeches the National FFA Chorus presented several selections while the judges conferred. Results of the Contest were announced and awards presented on behalf of the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Inc., by Vice President Fred Reed.

The meeting adjourned with the closing ceremony.

**Tuesday, October 13, 1953**

## Morning Session

The first session of the convention was called to order at nine o'clock with the opening ceremony, President Dillon presiding.

Following a concert by the national band the invocation was pronounced by Alton Brazell, National Vice President in 1949.

The report of the Delegate Credentials was called for and Student Secretary Willis reported 100 official delegates present from 50 chartered associations. The roll call and seating of the delegates followed. President Dillon gave instructions to the delegates.

Eugene Mixon, Florida State President, presented on behalf of the Bradentown, Florida, Chapter, a gavel made from pieces of wood from each of the forty-eight States, Hawaii and Puerto Rico, to the national organization for use as the official gavel at all national conventions.

Advisor Spanton presented the names of the following persons who were considered and recommended by the National Board of Student Officers and National Board of Directors to receive the Honorary American Farmer Degree:





**Dr. Chester Lang, Vice President of General Electric Company and Chairman of the Sponsoring Committee of the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Inc., receives the Honorary American Farmer Degree from Jimmy Dillon, National FFA President.**

Charles Dana Bennett, Foundation for American Agriculture, Farm Film Foundation, Washington, D. C.

Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

H. H. Bloom, President, Massey-Harris Co., Inc., Racine, Wisconsin

Frank Carlson, United States Senator from Kansas, Washington, D. C.

Maynard H. Coe, Director, Farm Division, National Safety Council, Chicago, Illinois

A. F. Davis, Vice President-Secretary, Lincoln Electric Company, Cleveland, Ohio

Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States, Washington, D. C.

William E. Kemp, Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri

Chester H. Lang, Vice President, Public Relations Department, General Electric Company, New York, New York

S. W. Pettigrew, Sears-Roebuck Foundation, Los Angeles, California

James L. Robinson, Extension Economist, Farm Credit Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Walter M. Tolan, Sales Manager, Universal Uniform Co., Van Wert, Ohio

Roderick Turnbull, Editor, "Weekly Star Farmer", Kansas City, Missouri

J. B. Adams, Retired State Supervisor Agricultural Education, Springfield, Illinois

A. R. Bunger, State Supervisor Agricultural Education, Denver, Colorado



Frank B. Cale, State Director Vocational Education, Richmond, Virginia  
Elvin Downs, Asst. State Director Agricultural Education, Salt Lake City, Utah  
John Farrar, Director of Public Relations and Information, Future Farmers of America, Washington, D. C.  
R. L. Hahn, Retired State Supervisor Agricultural Education, Hartford, Connecticut  
H. Neville Hansucker, Program Specialist Agricultural Education, Office of Education, Washington, D. C.  
R. W. Heim, State Director Vocational Education, Dover, Delaware  
Herbert S. Hill, Retired State Supervisor Agricultural Education, Cumberland Center, Maine  
J. A. James, Head Agricultural Teacher Trainer, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin  
Byrle Killian, District Supervisor Agricultural Education, Stillwater, Oklahoma  
Maxwell Lampo, Vocational Agriculture Teacher, Neosho, Missouri  
Sam Pickering, Chilhowee, Missouri  
William Hawkins Dillon, Jones, Louisiana  
Phineas F. Ellis, Mapleton, Maine  
Fred E. Reed, Hindsville, Arkansas  
Marbert L. Sorem, Dundas, Minnesota  
Ray Travis, Fallon, Nevada  
James L. Willis, Clio, South Carolina  
Clarence Blossey, Williamston, Michigan  
Chris Kottwitz, Kingfisher, Oklahoma  
William F. Hendrix, Advisor, Amphitheater Chapter, Tucson, Arizona  
Elmer Felton, Advisor, Phoenix Technical Chapter, Phoenix, Arizona  
Weldon M. Longbotham, Advisor, Hanford Chapter, Hanford, Calif.  
Donald E. Crockroft, Advisor, Eaton Chapter, Eaton, Colorado  
George Rhoads, Advisor, Stephen Babcock Chapter, Middletown, Delaware  
Grinelle E. Bishop, Advisor, Quincy Chapter, Quincy, Florida  
B. R. Mills, Advisor, Suwannee Chapter, Live Oak, Florida  
James E. Hamilton, Advisor, Audubon Chapter, Audubon, Iowa  
Milton Kohrs, Advisor, Little River Chapter, Little River, Kansas  
David Skolnick, Advisor, Agawam Chapter, Agawam, Massachusetts  
H. W. Welton, Advisor, Kearney Chapter, Kearney, Nebraska  
J. A. Richardson, Advisor, Hatch Chapter, Hatch, New Mexico  
J. E. Nowels, Advisor, Loudonville Chapter, Loudonville, Ohio  
Rodger Howell, Advisor, Kingfisher Chapter, Kingfisher, Oklahoma  
Norvel Penuel, Advisor, Pauls Valley Chapter, Pauls Valley, Oklahoma  
William E. Fuller, Jr., Advisor, Harrisburg Chapter, Harrisburg, Oregon  
J. L. Talley, Advisor, Baron DeKalb Chapter, Westville, South Carolina  
Wayne Scott, Advisor, John Sevier Chapter, Erwin, Tennessee  
Richard B. Dennis, Advisor, Nacogdoches Chapter, Nacogdoches, Texas  
Travis B. Reese, Advisor, Lamar Chapter, Rosenberg, Texas  
Bruce Robertson, Advisor, Rocky Gap Chapter, Rocky Gap, Virginia  
Wendell Hardway, Advisor, Troy Chapter, Troy, West Virginia  
G. E. Caines, Advisor, Battle Ground Chapter, Battle Ground, Washington  
Glenn Ziegler, Advisor, Mt. Baker Chapter, Deming, Washington

It was moved by Wilson of Pennsylvania to confer the Honorary American Farmer Degree upon the individuals whose names were read; motion seconded by Ridling of Oklahoma and carried.

President Dillon conferred the Honorary American Farmer Degree upon the Honorable William E. Kemp, Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri, after which Mayor Kemp made the address of welcome to the Future Farmers of America.

The minutes of the Twenty-fifth National Convention were read by Student Secretary Willis and approved unanimously in their entirety.

President Dillon announced the appointment of the Auditing, Program of Work and Nominating Committees.

North Atlantic Vice President Malcolm Ellis gave his report to the convention and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Martin of New York and carried.

Pacific Regional Vice President Donald R. Travis presented his report and moved its adoption. Motion seconded by Campbell of California and carried.



Participants in the International Youth Exchange get together and discuss their experiences. John Pickthall from Westmorland, England, and James Muir from North Yorkshire, England represented the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs of Great Britain in the United States and were present at the National FFA Convention. Philip Brouillette from Richford, Vermont, and David Boyne from Marlette, Michigan represented the Future Farmers of America in Great Britain during the past summer. John standing by James is telling the boys about one of his experiences in Michigan. Phil and Dave listen attentively while they are seated on the railing.

Dr. Dowell J. Howard, National FFA Treasurer, presented his report.

An interview was held by Mr. Wes Seyler, Farm Editor, Radio Station WIBW, Topeka, Kansas, with the four participants in the International Youth Exchange—David Boyne, Philip Brouillette, John Pickthall and James Muir.

Dr. A. W. Tenney, National FFA Executive Secretary, presented his report and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Reber of Nevada and carried.

Next was the unveiling of the Commemorative Postage Stamp, which was issued by the U. S. Post Office Department, honoring the Future Farmers of America. The Honorable Albert J. Robertson, Assistant Postmaster General of the United States, officially unveiled the stamp.

The meeting adjourned with the closing ceremony.

## **Tuesday, October 13, 1953**

### **Afternoon Session**

The second session of the convention was called to order at two o'clock with the opening ceremony, President Dillon presiding.

Musical selections were rendered by the Lake Village, Arkansas, String Band.

Greetings to the FFA were then read from the Future Farmers of the Philippines, Future Farmers of South Australia, and the Future Farmers of Japan.

It was moved by Spaulding of Idaho that the Future Farmers of America send their thanks and best wishes to the Future Farmers of Japan, South Australia and the Philippines; motion seconded by Austin of Michigan and carried.

The presentation of awards in the National Chapter Contest was made by Vice Presidents Bill Sorem and Malcolm Ellis, after which the Honorary American Farmer Degree was conferred upon the Advisors of the Gold Emblem Chapters.

Following music by the national band the Honorary American Farmer Degree was conferred upon a number of men by President Dillon.



# *Greetings . . . .*

*of*

## **THE FUTURE FARMERS OF JAPAN**

*to*

## **THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA**

I HAVE HERE THE HONOR to send the hearty greetings of all the 150,000 members of the Future Farmers of Japan to you all the officers, delegates, and representatives of the Future Farmers of America, who have assembled to the time-honored city of Kansas to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of your mighty organization.

This must be the time when you are not only exceedingly happy by reflecting upon the magnificent record attained in the past by your organization in the work of training agricultural leadership and improving the living conditions of your farming people but you are also exceedingly hopeful by making a strenuous resolution to surpass your predecessors in the work of realizing the ideals of your organization. We cordially congratulate you on your being happy and hopeful on this auspicious occasion. For it is to imitate the brilliant record of your organization and to prosecute the same noble ideals as yours that our Future Farmers of Japan was created five years ago.

I presume at the same time that you have gathered here with the full consciousness that you are living in the most critical moment in the world history when the bond between the free, democratic nations must be made stronger and their mutual defense must, under the leadership of the American people, be consolidated to frustrate the malignant intention of world domination of Communists. Under this grave circumstance it is utmost urgent for the Future Farmers of all the free nations to make themselves the mediums for promoting mutual understanding and defense among the nations. Indeed it is the time for the Future Farmers of America to courageously assume the leadership in this noble and arduous work also. In so far as our Future Farmers of Japan is concerned, all its members are eagerly looking forward to the time when you launch upon the work of positively guiding and assisting your younger brother organization FFJ by such means as dispatching some FFA representatives to Japan, exchanging useful materials, and so forth. For we are firmly convinced that nothing can be more enduring and more effective as a bond between two nations than the ties forged between their farming peoples. May this become the occasion for deepening and strengthening the understanding, sympathy, and cooperation between the two vigorous nations on either side of the Pacific Ocean.

*Submitted by* MR. YOSHIO YAMAMOTO  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF FFJ



A total of 336 members of the FFA received the American Farmer Degree during the convention. This is the largest number of boys to receive that degree in one year.

The American Farmer Degree was conferred upon the following candidates by the national officers:

#### Alabama

Truman Elton Allums, Route 1, Dora  
Robert Ballew, Route 1, Union Grove  
Joseph T. Boddie, Route 1, Titus  
Joe B. Broadwater, Route 1, Athens  
Glynn Debter, Route 1, Horton  
John L. Fitch, Grand Bay  
Merlin Martin, Route 1, Dothan  
William Nelson, Route 1, Fayette  
Darsie Rogers, Route 1, Notasulga  
John F. Sherrer, Marion Junction  
Jerry B. Sims, Grand Bay  
Wade Skidmore, Route 3, Arab

#### Arizona

Bruce Bryant Brooks, Route 4,  
Phoenix  
Henry Evans, Route 4, Phoenix

#### Arkansas

T. A. Brown, Jr., Swifton  
Ronald Hudson Cochran, Route 2,  
Barber  
William Anderson Jennings, III,  
Route 1, Marked Tree  
Loyd Earl Oxner, Route 1, Lexa  
Johnny Mack Rhoads, Route 1,  
Marked Tree

Charles William Robinette, P.O. Box  
525, Conway  
Don Sample, Box 5, Biscoe  
John Robert Villines, Box 738,  
Harrison

#### California

H. James Anderson, 6560 Petaluma  
Hill Road, Santa Rosa  
Conrad Andresen, Route 8, Fresno  
LeRoy J. Cheda, General Delivery,  
Petaluma  
William D. Christian, Box 25, Bay-  
side  
Joe Early, Route 1, Los Molinos  
Hitoshi Francis Kobayashi, Route 1,  
Petaluma  
Joe Maria, Jr., RFD Box 69, Walnut  
Grove  
Kenneth D. Matz, Route 1, Corning  
Robert C. Morelli, Route 2, Petaluma  
Kenneth Dudley Morrison, Star  
Route, Calabasas  
Solon O'Brien Neilan, Route 1, Reed-  
ley

#### Colorado

Ray J. King, Route 1, Montrose  
Lee L. Spann, Route 4, Gunnison



**Connecticut**

Frank E. Rosseter, Millerton, N. Y.

**Florida**

Bryan Cooksey, Lamont  
 Hubert Gamble, Route 5, Live Oak  
 Copeland Griswold, Route 2, Milton  
 Clarence B. Gulsby, Route 2, Cantonment  
 Billy Gene Hester, 534 Ohio Avenue, DeLand  
 Ronald Clyde Lanier, R.F.D. 4, Live Oak  
 Donald Earl Plunket, Route 3, Plant City  
 Donald W. Porter, P.O. Box 407, Quincy

**Georgia**

Clarence Kenneth Ansley, Route 1, Warrenton  
 Winston Chandler, R.F.D. 1, Blakely  
 Elwyn H. Childs, Route 2, Pelham  
 Noel Duncan, R.F.D. 1, Hull  
 James Perry Hewitt, Jr., Route 2, Quitman  
 Murray Fletcher Irvin, R.F.D. 1, Sycamore  
 Therman Wilburn Jenkins, Route 1, Blakely  
 Benjamin A. Moorhead, Buckhead  
 Phil Ogletree, Jr., Route B, Griffin  
 Lamar Samuel Parrish, Route 4, Moultrie  
 Waymon Patrick, Route 1, Quitman  
 James Samuel Patton, Route 1, Comer  
 George Edgar Pyle, Hilton  
 Tom Riley, Hilton  
 Allen W. Tabor, Route 1, Fort Valley  
 Leon Toole, Bainbridge, Route 1

**Idaho**

George Harvey Clason, Route 2, Wilder  
 Riley L. Mickelson, Lago  
 Leonard Eugene Pretl, Route 2, Buhl

**Illinois**

John Adams, Chebanse  
 Robert Dean Adcock, R.R. No. 1, Assumption  
 Gene Beckner, Hoopeston  
 Lewis Earl Britton, R.R. No. 1, Greenville  
 David H. Cramer, R.R. No. 3, Petersburg  
 Maurice Marcell DeSutter, Woodhull  
 Jake C. Ebach, Forrest  
 Harold W. Ely, Toulon  
 Allen D. Fechtig, Enfield  
 Allen Eugene Fehr, Dakota

N. Stanley Nelson, Newark  
 Elwyn W. Nice, R.R. No. 1, Morrison  
 Delmar F. Reif, Eldred  
 James Howard Reynolds, Little York  
 Melvin J. Schlemmer, Route 1, Collinsville  
 Richard Donavon Stremmel, Farmington  
 Tom E. Taylor, Gibson City

**Indiana**

Phillip Eugene Cline, R.R. No. 2, Sheridan  
 John H. Jessup, R.R. No. 2, Fairmount  
 Louis Thomas Korniak, R.R. No. 1, Rensselaer  
 Gordon Duane Walker, R.R. No. 2, Kirklin  
 Charles William Warburton, R. R. No. 5, Lebanon  
 Wilford Gene Weaver, R.R. No. 1, Aurora  
 Gerald Lee Wilkins, R.R. No. 1, Frankfort

**Iowa**

J. C. Engel, Maquoketa  
 Richard D. Hanna, R.F.D. No. 1, Forest City  
 Francis J. Jackson, Spencer  
 Robert L. Kelly, Lytton  
 Earl Lee Muilenburg, Hartley  
 Charles Albert Olson, Dows  
 Robert Lee Schmid, Spencer  
 William Glen Sickels, Kellerton  
 Curtis R. Stender, Route 1, Denison

**Kansas**

Marvin G. Allen, Olathe  
 Kermit Case, R.R. No. 1, Lyons  
 Ronnie Hughes, Emporia  
 Donald W. Hunt, R.R. No. 4, Arkansas City

**Kentucky**

Horace Emmick, II, Lewisport  
 Eugene F. Johnson, Route 4, Lexington  
 Brady Magan, Route 1, Owensboro  
 Norman Kenneth McAdams, Shepherdsville  
 Joseph Mobley, Route 3, Elizabethtown  
 William R. Owen, Rowletts  
 John Ross, Route 1, Catlettsburg  
 Bobby R. Snedegar, R.R. No. 1, Owingsville  
 George O. Spoonamore, III, Route 2, Stanford  
 John K. Wills, Route 4, Mt. Sterling  
 Billy F. Wolfe, Route 5, Cadiz

**Louisiana**

Billy Donahoe, Route 1, Delhi  
 Derry Magee, Mt. Hermon  
 Quinlon S. McElveen, Mt. Hermon  
 Joe Don Powell, Route 2, Mansfield

**Maine**

Harvey Prescott Wood, R.F.D. No. 1,  
 Fairfield

**Maryland**

Franklin A. Robinson, Brandywine

**Massachusetts**

Anthony A. Sartori, West Stock-  
 bridge

**Michigan**

Rollin Dale Blosssey, Route 2, Wil-  
 liamston  
 Stanley Earl Bode, Route 4, Fremont  
 David Herman Boyne, Marlette  
 Charles L. Fisher, Route 1, Wayland  
 Carlyle H. Hager, Route 2, Marlette  
 Robert Kleinschmidt, Webberville  
 David M. Nichols, Route 2, Hillsdale  
 Wilbur Lewis Rykert, Route 2, Wil-  
 liamston  
 Marion Toney, Route 2, Decatur  
 Richard Lee Vershum, Britton  
 William E. Weisgerber, Route 2,  
 Ionia

**Minnesota**

Roger Beers, Luverne  
 Everne Orlyn Danielson, Ortonville  
 James J. Dusek, Owatonna  
 Kermith Dybdal, Elbow Lake  
 Eugene V. Francis, Garden City  
 Leon Fritsche, Route 2, New Ulm  
 Mason Mace, Jr., Route 4, Austin  
 David John Rentschler, Lakefield  
 Richard D. Stadheim, R.R. No. 2,  
 Albert Lea

**Mississippi**

Joe B. Boggan, Route 3, Mendenhall  
 Sammie Brasher, Route 2, Cascilla  
 Billy Chappell, Braxton  
 William D. Ewing, Brooksville  
 W. N. Heidel, Jr., Route 1, Vaughan  
 Major Darroll Jefcoat, Route 1, Soso  
 Russell Ladner, Route 3, Lumberton  
 Jessie B. Massey, Oakland  
 Lloyd L. Shackelford, Dumas  
 Mahlon Pipkin Taylor, Charleston

**Missouri**

Melvin G. Blase, R.F.D. No. 3, St.  
 Charles  
 Charles Wayne Brown, Skidmore

James R. Cook, Hample  
 William D. Fleshman, Lucerne  
 Jerry Franklin, Route 3, Steele  
 Nicky Iman, Slater  
 Samuel Lee Miller, Star Route,  
 Jasper  
 Paul Irvin Reis, Carl Junction  
 Russel Bea Spurgeon, Route 4,  
 Mountain Grove  
 Edward H. Steele, R.F.D. No. 4,  
 Butler  
 John Franklin Wilhite, Route 3,  
 Columbia

**Montana**

Albert H. Groskinsky, Route 2, Sid-  
 ney  
 Clyde A. Pederson, Creston

**Nebraska**

Junior Knobel, Powell  
 Calvin E. Lemmon, Jr., Crawford  
 Charles Mack, Harrison  
 Stanley Schellpeper, Stanton  
 Ted Durst Ward, R.R. No. 1, Auburn

**Nevada**

Keith Murry Whipple, Hiko

**New Hampshire**

Graydon Leo Lyons, Colebrook

**New Jersey**

John Insley Roy, R.F.D., Andover

**New Mexico**

Dale Rondal Pulliam, Bellview  
 F. Hunt Zumwalt, Box 55, Artesia

**New York**

John Carpenter, R.F.D. No. 1, Ham-  
 ilton  
 Phillip J. Casamento, South Ply-  
 mouth  
 Arnold M. Cope, East Springfield  
 Charles Douglas Dennison, R.F.D.  
 No. 1, Ira  
 Bruce A. Francisco, R.F.D. No. 3,  
 Belmont  
 Kenneth Lamb, Hamilton  
 John Siegel, Westernville  
 Coleman Lynn Taber, Mecklenburg

**North Carolina**

John Homer Barton, Route 7, Char-  
 lotte  
 D. Carlyle Beam, Route 1, Bessemer  
 City  
 William D. Boggs, Olin  
 George Gleen Broome, Aurora

George Bennie Cardwell, Route 1,  
Mayodan  
Linwood Lin Cayton, Aurora  
Robert Earl Cooper, Route 1, Fayetteville  
David Horace Elliott, Route 2, Bath  
John Royce Hagaman, Zionville  
Lowell Thomas Hedrick, Route 2,  
Lexington  
Elijah Nelson Helms, Route 6, Monroe  
Billy Jenkins, Conway  
Charles Little Keels, Route 6, Monroe  
Nick Deems Kornegay, Albertson  
David Robert O'Bryant, Route 2,  
Reidsville  
George Herman Porter, Route 1,  
Goldsboro  
Roy Baxter Puckett, Route 2, Madison  
Thomas Ray Sifford, Route 2, Rockwell  
Jackie Kennard Snow, State Road,  
Mountain Park  
Stacy Morris Woodall, Route 3,  
Benson

#### North Dakota

Benjamin J. Axtman, Rugby  
Gary Longtin, Park River

#### Ohio

Robert R. Andres, Bryan  
Dwight Allen Etter, Continental  
John C. Foltz, Bremen  
Roger D. Kantner, Route 2, Wapakoneta  
Richard E. Lawrence, Route 1,  
Marion  
Franklin Eugene Leightey, R.R. No. 3, Upper Sandusky  
Charles Lons, Jr., Route 3, Medina  
Roger L. Tangeman, Route 4, Wapakoneta  
Charles R. Taylor, Canal Winchester  
Dick Williams, Harrod

#### Oklahoma

Charles Elmore Burford, R.R. No. 1,  
Maysville  
Gary D. Collier, Mooreland  
Ernest Ray Davis, Route 4, Guthrie  
Charles A. Downey, Coyle  
Ted L. Green, R.R. No. 2, Cordell  
Archie N. Hopkins, Davenport  
Monroe Kottwitz, Kingfisher  
Melvin Kysela, Route 1, Moore  
Ivan Motter, Route 2, Inola

Lee Martin Sanders, Red Rock  
Vernon Ray Straka, R.R. No. 1,  
Moore  
Arthur Themer, Route 5, Kingfisher  
Morris D. Thurman, Sayre  
Wendell Charles Turley, R.R. No. 3,  
Elk City  
Jack Wilson, Ringling

#### Oregon

Lynwood R. Lundquist, Route 1,  
Newberg  
Wayne F. Johnston, Route 1, Jefferson  
Robin Dareld McKinley, Route 1,  
Woodburn  
Jack McCaffery, Powell Butte

#### Pennsylvania

Leslie Wayne Althouse, R.F.D. No. 1, Cochranville  
Carl Thomas Chess, R.F.D. No. 2, Sandy Lake  
Richard H. Hess, R.F.D. No. 1, Strasburg  
Willis LaRue Kittle, Snedekerville  
John Joseph Kozlowski, Paramount Orchards, North East  
Clyde W. McConaughy, Jr., Smicksburg  
Kenneth Elwood Rishel, R.F.D. No. 2, Mifflinburg  
Raymond A. Seidel, Virginville  
Robert Bowman Stahl, R.F.D. No. 6, Somerset  
Carl Irvin Wenger, R.F.D. No. 2, Myerstown  
Victor K. Ziegler, R.F.D. No. 2, Myerstown

#### Puerto Rico

Victor Daniel Marrero, P. O. Box 333, Dominguito, Arecibo

#### South Carolina

David F. Earle, Route 4, Greenville  
Buck Newman, Route 1, Roebuck  
Herman E. Satcher, R.F.D. No. 2, Johnston

#### South Dakota

Roger A. Anderson, Alcester  
Everett D. Hanson, Clark  
Raymond Leroy Stukel, Gregory

**Tennessee**

Thomas Kelley Austin, Route 5,  
Sparta  
Jimmy Joe Butler, Route 4, Gaines-  
boro  
Daniel Finley Doran, Fordtown  
John Lester Doran, Route 1, Indian  
Springs  
Charles Hamlin Gillen, Route 1,  
Sparta  
Earl Jones, Indian Springs  
Charles H. Kemp, Difficult  
Jerry Edward McLeary, Route 5,  
Jackson  
Bobby Moore, Route 1, Williamsport  
William E. Paschall, Ridgely  
Clifford A. Rowlett, Jr., Route 1,  
Medina  
Peter Scott, Route 2, Newbern  
Lenard Lawton Shepherd, Route 1,  
Knoxville  
Donald Shelton Squibb, Route 6,  
Jonesboro  
Johnnie Trice, Route 4, Lebanon  
Ruben Dennis White, Oldfort

**Texas**

Charles Earl Bartley, Brownfield  
Leonard Berger, Route 1, Schulen-  
burg  
Bobby Booth, Whitney  
Joe Dan Boyd, R.F.D. No. 3, Winns-  
boro  
Corky Chapman, Route 3, Coleman  
Alton Clement, Route 4, Whitesboro  
Archie Arthur Dennis, Jr., Route 3,  
Athens  
Charles Aaron Edwards, Route 2,  
Troy  
Billy Pendleton Farr, Route 1,  
Gainesville  
Allen Hagens, Route 1, Slaton  
Grove E. Hallmark, Carbon  
Bobby Joe Henderson, Route 4, Lub-  
bock  
Kenneth Ray Hill, Whitney  
Samuel Amon Hilton, Route 2, Mes-  
quite  
Wendell Horne, Route 2, Sulphur  
Springs  
Willie Ince, Whitney  
Marion Andrew Jungman, LaCoste  
Billy Daniel Kamp, Route 2, Sudan  
Donald Keith Moran, Route 4, White-  
wright  
George Mullino, Rochester  
George W. Murray, P.O. Box 173,  
Grapeland  
Denton E. Parsons, Route 4, Box 106,  
Victoria

Don Patterson, Route 1, Slaton  
Donald T. Pendleton, Ivan Star  
Route, Breckenridge  
Carol Pennell, Route 4, Sherman  
Werner C. Philipp, Route 2, Clifton  
Hugh Murphy Porter, Route 4,  
Gainesville  
Leonard Radde, Route 1, Meridian  
Kenneth Reynolds, R.F.D. No. 3,  
Pittsburg  
Franklin Stautzenberger, Tynan  
Allen Triplett, Route 4, Hillsboro  
Bobby Weeks, Whitney  
Bobby D. Williams, Whitney  
Calvin Wiseman, Jr., Route 2, Sudan  
Jeff White, Cooper  
Donnie Yarbrough, Route 2, Plain-  
view

**Utah**

Calvert Therald Larsen, Ephraim  
Douglas Alvin Olsen, Mt. Pleasant  
Glenn A. Smith, 549 North Main St.,  
Brigham City

**Vermont**

Walker Earl James, R.F.D., Orwell

**Virginia**

Robert Stafford Bane, Route 2, Bland  
James D. Bennett, Red House  
Crawley J. Chandler, Jr., Church  
Road  
Walter Marvin Dickens, Prince  
George  
Richard E. Duncan, Route 3, Nath-  
alie  
Hunter Preston Mabry, Route 1,  
Waynesboro  
William B. Matthews, Jr., Claudville  
William M. Park, Skipwith

**Washington**

Stanley Alton Chapman, Route 1,  
Monroe  
Norman Daniel Heilig, Route 12,  
Tacoma  
Ray A. Jensen, Route 1, Burlington  
Victor C. McMahon, Graham  
John H. Nordheim, Jr., Walla Walla  
John A. Schultheis, Box 125, Colton

**West Virginia**

Philip W. Harmison, Star Route,  
Berkeley Springs  
Stephen Martin, R.F.D. No. 3, Terra  
Alta  
Charles Wellings, Jr., Troy



**Wisconsin**

James W. Bell, Galesville  
 Robert Bjerstedt, River Falls  
 Gerald Carlson, Route 3, Amery  
 Elgin Emil Fanta, R.R. No. 1, Hills-  
 boro  
 Seymour A. Hatch, Lake Geneva  
 Donald O. Koerner, Dorchester  
 Edward Edwin Kruse, Loganville  
 Maurice A. Kuenzi, Richfield  
 Elgin C. Paskey, Poynette

William Hume Paulson, R.R. No. 3,  
 Osseo  
 Kieran F. Powers, R.R. No. 3,  
 Mauston  
 Kenneth H. Rowley, R.R. No. 1,  
 Delavan  
 Lowell E. Saxton, Route 3, Elk  
 Mound  
 Ivan E. Witt, Kendall

**Wyoming**

Donald G. Wisroth, Pine Bluffs

The meeting adjourned with the closing ceremony.

## **Tuesday, October 13, 1953**

### **Evening Session**

The third session of the convention was called to order at seven-thirty o'clock with the opening ceremony, President Dillon presiding.

Musical selections were presented by the National Band and Chorus.

The Massing of State Flags by the State Star Farmers was presented, after which the National Vice Presidents presented the Star Farmer Awards for 1953.

The meeting adjourned with the closing ceremony.

## **Wednesday, October 14, 1953**

### **Morning Session**

The fourth session of the convention was called to order at nine o'clock with the opening ceremony, President Dillon presiding.

President Dillon asked all past national officers to come to the platform and introduce themselves, and then tell the delegates and audience something about their present programs. Those present were: Bob Smith; Gus R. Douglass, Jr.; Leslie Fry; William Shaffer; Charles R. Ocker; Bobby Jones; O. Beverley Roller; Alton Brazell; Ervin Denisen; Ivan Kindschi; Elmer Johnson; Bob Taylor; Philip Shober; Kort H. Meier, Jr.; Hall Davis; Walter Cummins; Donald Jorgensen; William Stiers; Ralph Bender; Lawrence Augenstine; Doyle Conner; J. Glyndon Stuff; Rogers Fike; Glenn Lackey; George Lewis; and W. A. Ross.





Past National FFA Officers were called to the platform and given the privilege of extending greetings to the members present. Their thrilling stories of achievement proved to be one of the highlights of the convention.

The Silver Anniversary Pageant was then presented.  
The meeting adjourned with the closing ceremony.

### **Wednesday, October 14, 1953**

#### **Afternoon Session**

The fifth session of the convention was called to order at two o'clock with the opening ceremony, President Dillon presiding.

After the opening ceremony, President Dillon appointed committees. The meeting then recessed for committee work.

(NOTE: The afternoon session was spent on tours to points of interest in Kansas City by those who were not doing committee work.)

### **Wednesday, October 14, 1953**

#### **Evening Session**

The sixth session of the convention was called to order at eight o'clock with the opening ceremony, President Dillon presiding.

A few musical selections were rendered by the national band and chorus.

Representatives from each of the donors to the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Incorporated were called to the platform and introduced to the convention.



Representatives of donors to the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Inc. were platform guests during one session of the convention. Members of the FFA are grateful for the cooperation given to the organization by representatives of organizations, commercial concerns and by individuals.

Presentation of Future Farmers of America Foundation, Incorporated Awards for 1953 were made by the national officers.

The meeting adjourned with the closing ceremony.

## **Thursday, October 15, 1953**

### **Morning Session**

The seventh session of the convention was called to order at nine o'clock with the opening ceremony, President Dillon presiding.

Several musical selections were rendered by the Agawam, Massachusetts, Orchestra.

Southern Regional Vice President Fred Reed, Jr. presented his report and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Reber of Nevada and carried.

Student Secretary Jimmy Willis presented his report and moved its adoption; motion seconded by McCracken of South Carolina and carried.

Central Regional Vice President Bill Sorem presented his report and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Baringer of Minnesota and carried.

Central Regional Vice President Bill Sorem assumed the chair.

President Jimmy Dillon presented his report and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Tomky of Colorado and carried.

President Dillon resumed the chair.

Representatives from the Future Homemakers of America, Boy Scouts of America and the 4-H Club then greeted the Future Farmers of America.





Members of the FFA were delighted to have representatives from the National 4-H Clubs, Future Homemakers of America, and Boy Scouts of America extend greetings to the Future Farmers of America on its Silver Anniversary. The representatives were, (left to right)—Francis W. Pressly, 4-H Clubs; Roene Malcom, Future Homemakers of America; and Sam E. Wallace, Boy Scouts of America.



Mr. Bruce Force of the Osborne Company was then presented to the convention, after which he gave a short report on the official FFA calendar.

Mr. Lano Barron, Editor of The National FUTURE FARMER, was presented to the convention by President Dillon, after which he gave a short report on the magazine.

Mr. Harry Andrews, Assistant Manager of the Future Farmers Supply Service was presented to the convention by Executive Secretary Tenney, after which he gave a short report on the Supply Service.

Leo W. Clark of California presented the report of the Program of Work Committee. Action on this committee report was postponed until the afternoon session.

After music by the national band President Dillon conferred the Honorary American Farmer Degree upon Honorable Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, after which Secretary Benson presented an address.

The Buffalo Grass Dance was then presented by the Browning, Montana, Chapter.

The meeting adjourned with the closing ceremony.

## **Thursday, October 15, 1953**

### **Afternoon Session**

The eighth session of the convention was called to order at two o'clock with the opening ceremony, President Dillon presiding.

It was moved by Berry of Oklahoma to accept the report of the Program of Work Committee; motion seconded by Futrelle of North Carolina and carried.

Larry Richner of Washington presented the report of the Code of Ethics Committee and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Hall of Arizona and carried.

Bobby Futrelle of North Carolina submitted the report of the FFA Foundation Committee and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Gamage of Virginia and carried.

Warner Johnson of North Dakota presented the report of the Public Speaking Committee and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Gass of West Virginia and carried.

After music by the national chorus President Dillon presented Honorable Oveta Culp Hobby, Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, with a gold paperweight bearing her name. Secretary Hobby then made an address.

Edward Brown of Maryland presented the report of the Convention Committee and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Boldt of Iowa and carried.

Morris Morgan of Arkansas presented the report of the official Mannual Committee and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Shepard of Wyoming and carried.

Charles Wellings, Jr. of West Virginia presented the report of the Chapter Contest Committee and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Mueller of Illinois. It was moved by Johnson of North Dakota to amend the report by striking out point number one; motion seconded by Moore of Arizona. The amendment was approved. After much discussion a vote was taken and the report of this committee was accepted.

Lawrence Hall of Kentucky presented the report of the Resolutions Committee and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Hagler of Texas. It was moved by Schwend of Montana to amend this report by adding thanks to the Browning, Montana, Chapter for their Buffalo Grass Dance; motion seconded by Springer of California. The report of this committee was accepted with the adding of thanks to the Browning Chapter.

Executive Secretary Tenney presented the budget for 1953-54. It was moved by Richner of Washington that the report be accepted; motion seconded by Arnold of Michigan and carried.



Lake Village, Arkansas, String Band

# National FFA Budget

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**JULY 1, 1953 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1954**

## Anticipated Revenue:

Membership dues .....	\$37,000.00
Royalties .....	28,000.00
Loan from Supply Service.....	20,825.00
Old Mill .....	2,000.00
Supply Service—Rent .....	1,500.00
Supply Service—Grant .....	7,500.00
Miscellaneous .....	300.00
<hr/>	
Total anticipated revenue.....	\$97,125.00

## Estimated Disbursements:

I. Travel .....	\$18,000.00
II. Convention .....	16,220.00
III. American Farmer Keys.....	3,600.00
IV. Printing .....	4,100.00
V. National Office .....	23,405.00
VI. National Camp and Old Mill.....	2,800.00
VII. Judging Expenses .....	500.00
VIII. The National Future Farmer.....	28,500.00
<hr/>	
Total estimated disbursements.....	\$97,125.00

It was moved by Johnson of Utah that the Board of Student Officers and Board of Directors be given full power to take action on unfinished business in the interim between conventions; motion seconded by Brotzman of New York and carried.

Keith Whipple of Nevada presented the report of the Nominating Committee and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Ayers of Virginia and carried. Rikehorn of Montana moved that those listed in the report of the Nominating Committee be elected as the 1953-54 National Officers; motion seconded by Mueller of Illinois and carried.

The newly elected President, David Boyne, presented each of the past officers with official national officer pins and certificates.





1953-54 NATIONAL FFA OFFICERS

(Standing left to right)—John Schultheis, Vice President; Walker James, Vice President; Charles W. Ritter, Jr., Vice President; and Harlan Rigney, Vice President.

(Seated left to right)—David Boyne, President; Hunt Zumwalt, Student Secretary; Dowell J. Howard, Treasurer; A. W. Tenney, Executive Secretary; and W. T. Spanton, Advisor.

It was moved by Hall of Kentucky that the new President present Jimmy Dillon with the gavel which he used to open the first session; motion seconded by Brownlee of Florida and carried.

The meeting adjourned with the closing ceremony.

### Thursday, October 15, 1953

#### Evening Session

The final session of the convention was called to order at seven thirty o'clock with the opening ceremony, President Dillon presiding.

After music by the national band and chorus, platform guests were introduced.

President Dillon conferred the Honorary American Farmer Degree upon the Honorable Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States, after which President Eisenhower made an address.

The convention was adjourned sine die at 8:45 o'clock with the closing ceremony.

# Committee Reports

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## Report of Auditing Committee

We, the members of the Auditing Committee, have inspected the books kept by the National Treasurer, Dr. Dowell J. Howard, and audited by Leach, Calkins and Scott, Certified Public Accountants, for the period July 1, 1952 through June 30, 1953 and find that they are accurate and in proper order.

Respectfully submitted,

B. R. PESNELL, Louisiana  
(Chairman)

NELSON GALLE, Kansas

JOHN SHIELDS, Kentucky

WYNDAL HENDRICKS, Mississippi

DWIGHT SPAULDING, Idaho

ED REITER, Montana

MAX BERRY, Oklahoma

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## Report of the Committee On American Farmer Applications

We, the members of the American Farmer Degree Committee have upon careful examination agreed to approve the revised application form as submitted and further recommend that all applications be typewritten and carefully checked for accuracy before submission to the State and National Office.

Respectfully submitted,

ALVIN BANNER, Tennessee  
(Chairman)

HARLAN RIGNEY, Illinois

PHILIP REBER, Nevada

GRAYDON L. LYONS,  
New Hampshire

ROBERT HUNSAKER, Utah

LENNIE GAMAGE, Virginia

## **Report of the National Chapter Contest Committee**

We the members of the committee on the National Chapter Contest recommend that the 1953-54 rules and regulations for the contest be the same as for 1952-53 with the exception of the following changes and recommendations:

1. That the policy of awarding the degree of Honorary American Farmer to advisors of National Gold Emblem Chapters be discontinued. (It is understood by this committee that a new criteria for awarding the degree to advisors would be established by the newly elected Board of Student Officers and the Board of Directors of the FFA.)

2. That the national office devise a report form for use in connection with the chapter contest that will:

- a. Simplify the reporting of chapter accomplishments
- b. Facilitate scoring of accomplishments and selection
- c. Eliminate scrapbooks and similar materials from consideration in judging.

Furthermore, it is recommended that a special national committee, comprised of several adults and FFA members selected from States having participants in the 1952-53 National Chapter Contest, study and revise the rules and general plan for this contest and report their recommendations to the Chapter Contest Committee at the 1954 National Convention. It is suggested that the special committee give consideration to the following points:

1. Establishing as Part I of the contest a list of minimum standards for chapter performance.
2. Establishing as Part II a plan for scoring chapter accomplishments in terms of this program of work.
3. Revising the award system that will give recognition to all local chapters which meet the minimum standards.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES WELLINGS, JR.,  
(Chairman) West Virginia

JERRY MOSS, Arkansas

JAMES R. CAMPBELL, California

JAMES A. GALLAGHER, Maine

ALAN KING, Missouri

GLEN WRIGHT, Wisconsin

JOHN TANNER, Wyoming



### **Code of Ethics Committee**

We, the Code of Ethics Committee go on record as being in favor of adopting the following code for upholding the high ethical standards of our organization.

#### **Citizenship:**

1. Show respect for rights of others and be courteous at all times.
2. Be honest and do not take unfair advantage of others.
3. Respect property of others.
4. Demonstrate sportsmanship in the show ring, judging contests and meetings. Be modest in winning and generous in defeat.
5. Attend meetings promptly and respect the opinion of others in discussion.
6. Take pride in our organization; in our activities; in our farming programs; in our exhibits and in the occupation of farming and ranching.
7. Share with others experiences and knowledge gained by attending national and state meetings.

#### **Conduct:**

1. Dress neatly and appropriately for the occasion.
2. Refrain from loud, boisterous talk, swearing and horseplay.
3. Refrain from smoking during meetings and contests.
4. Show respect by removing your hat when entering all meeting places.
5. Conduct yourselves in a manner that will be worthy of respect and notice from both youth and adults. Your actions may become the pattern by which the FFA or your parents are judged.

Respectfully submitted,

LARRY RICHNER, Washington  
(Chairman)

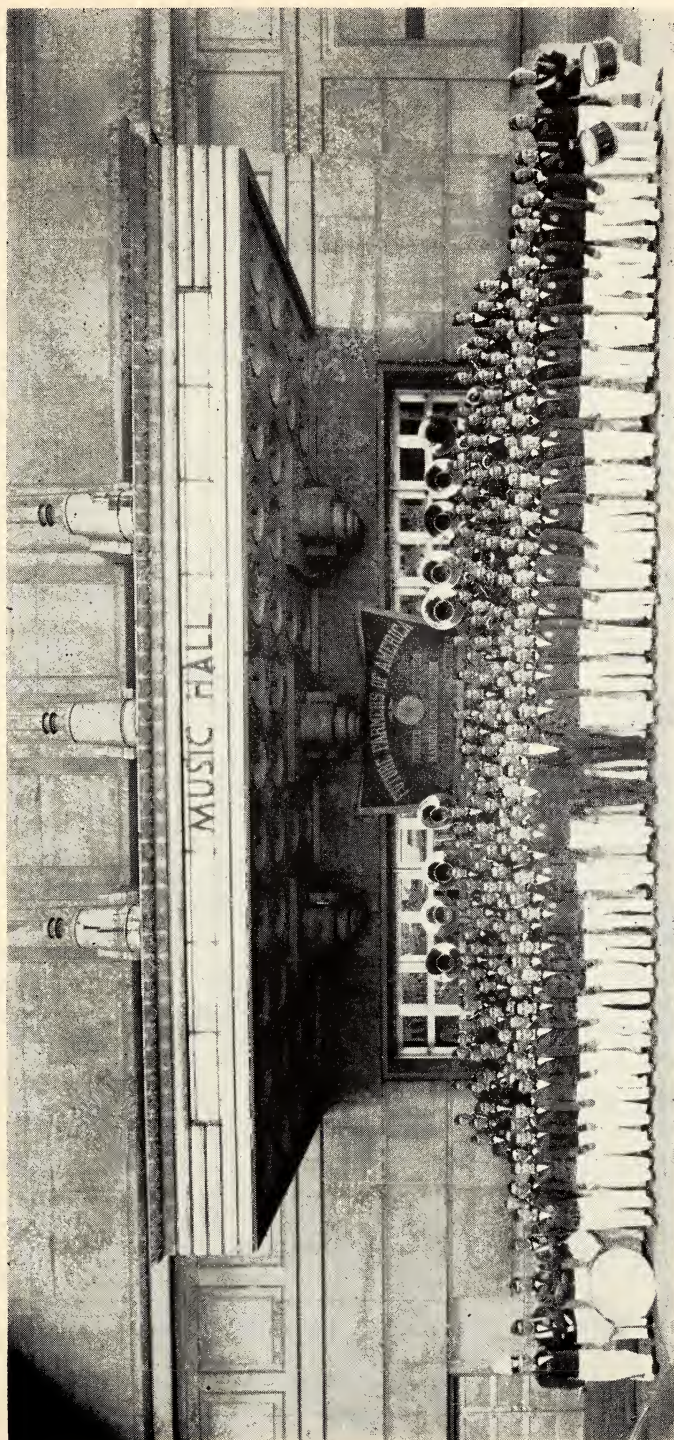
DEWEY BARINGER, Minnesota

DAVID H. ELLIOTT, Delaware

JOE MOORE, Tennessee

MICHAEL DUGAN, Connecticut

DALE RING, Ohio



NATIONAL FFA BAND AND CHORUS

These musical units provided top entertainment for the FFA Convention and the American Royal Livestock Show, Ball and Parade.



### **Report of Committee on The National Convention**

We, the members of the Committee on National Convention convened and offer the following recommendations:

1. We recommend that the younger members of the FFA be encouraged to attend the national convention.
2. We recommend that more FFA members be able to participate in the programs at the national conventions. More members can be brought into the program by use of a talent show.
3. We recommend that more States be encouraged to have exhibits at the national convention.
4. We recommend more program time be devoted to the International Youth Exchange speakers.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARD BROWN, Maryland  
(Chairman)

ROLAND MILLER, Missouri

DARWIN D. CROCKETT,  
New Mexico

EUGENE A. MIXON, Florida

PAUL COOPER, New Jersey

DONALD BOLDT, Iowa

### **Report of Committee on FFA Foundation**

After having examined the Report of the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Incorporated, the committee representing the 363-369 Future Farmers of the forty-eight States, Hawaii and Puerto Rico, wishes to express its gratitude and appreciation for the excellent assistance and cooperation they have given us, as Future Farmers.

We should also like very much to thank the donors for their participation in contributing to our cause, and especially do we want to thank Mr. Chester Lang, Vice President of the General Electric Company, for serving as Chairman of the Sponsoring Committee of the Foundation.

Our thanks to the FFA Foundation Donors on our Silver Anniversary.

Respectfully submitted,

BOBBY FUTRELLE, North Carolina  
(Chairman)

BOB MOORE, Arizona  
(Acting Chairman)

HARLAN HANSON, Minnesota

MARK KEFFELER, South Dakota

BILLY PAUL RUSSELL, Texas

ROLAND BURROUGHS, Vermont

BILL SHEPARD, Wyoming



### **Report of Committee on National Magazine**

We, the National Magazine Committee hereby submit the following recommendations:

1. To encourage new subscribers to give correct address, consisting of name, route and box number, town and State. Members not receiving magazine promptly write to National Magazine.
2. To encourage Future Farmers to send in articles, making sure the articles are correct and prompt.
3. To compliment States who are handling subscriptions through State office, and encourage more States to do same.
4. To welcome suggestions for improvement in the form of letters from chapters and members. The magazine belongs to the FFA and these suggestions will be welcome at all times.
5. The committee recommends that the editor, the Student Officers, and the Board of Directors be given full power to make any and all changes deemed necessary and advisable for the betterment of the magazine.
6. The committee wishes to thank the national officers for their backing of the magazine. Our thanks go also to Mr. Lano Barron and his staff for their untiring efforts in behalf of the magazine.

Respectfully submitted,

JON HAGLER, Texas (Chairman)  
HENRY ARCHAMBAULT,  
Massachusetts  
DAVID K. BROWN, Vermont  
ROGER FENDALL, Oregon  
MERLE KRUEGER, Wisconsin  
BRUCE AYERS, Virginia  
HOWARD L. LINDER, Iowa

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### **Report of the Committee on Official Manual**

We, the members of the Official Manual Committee, have reviewed the Official FFA Manual and do recommend the following:

1. That the official FFA Manual be revised, preserving all the fundamental purposes of it as an Official Manual, and also making a teaching instrument of the Manual.
2. That the brief form of correct Parliamentary Procedure, in chart form, be included at the end of the explanation of Parliamentary Procedure.

3. That the future Official FFA Manual committees strive to derive a group of questions concerning each individual section of the manual to be printed in a later edition.

Respectfully submitted,

MORRIS MORGAN, Arkansas  
(Chairman)  
DWIGHT LYMAN, Connecticut  
JAMES CARPENTER, Delaware  
GILMORE DAHL, Kansas  
RALPH BARRETT, Alabama  
DONALD TOMA, Hawaii  
MILLARD BLANCH, Colorado

**Report of The Nominating Committee**

We, the Nominating Committee, do hereby submit the following candidates for National FFA Officers for the year 1953-54. After having given careful and deliberate consideration to all applicants, we offer the following slate of candidates for the delegates' consideration:

President.....David H. Boyne, Marlette, Michigan  
Student Secretary.....Hunt Zumwalt, Artesia, New Mexico  
Vice Presidents  
North Atlantic Region....Walker Earl James, Orwell, Vermont  
Southern Region.....Charles W. Ritter, Jr., Amory, Mississippi  
Central Region.....Harlan Rigney, Red Oak, Illinois  
Pacific Region.....John Schultheis, Colton, Washington  
Advisor.....W. T. Spanton, Washington, D. C.  
Executive Secretary.....A. W. Tenney, Washington, D. C.  
Treasurer.....D. J. Howard, Richmond, Virginia

Respectfully submitted,

KEITH WHIPPLE, Nevada  
(Chairman)  
DOUGLAS TOMKY, Colorado  
BILLY GUNTER, Florida  
CHARLES SCHWEND, Montana  
BARTON RIDLING, Oklahoma  
FRANK WILSON, Pennsylvania  
LOWELL GISSELBECK,  
South Dakota  
JERRY GASS, West Virginia  
ARLEY WALDO, Nebraska

## **Report of the Committee on Public Relations**

We, the Committee on Public Relations for 1953-54 go on record as recommending the following:

1. That local chapters be encouraged to select outstanding members and representatives to speak before civic groups, etc.
2. That local chapters observe National FFA Week by use of newspaper coverage, display ads, advertisement folders, window displays, radio and TV on civic and farm organization programs.
3. We recommend that the National Magazine be sent to the home of every Future Farmer.
4. That the third addition of the pictorial brochure "Future Farmers of America in Action", be completed at the earliest convenience of the Public Relations Department.
5. That high school and college libraries, city and county libraries, airlines and railroad companies be supplied with the national, State and local magazines.
6. That our national officers continue the policy of a goodwill tour and that State associations and local chapters also adopt this policy.
7. That delegates, award winners, guests of luncheons, breakfasts and dinners express their appreciation to the Foundation donors by personal note.
8. That local chapters purchase and distribute the FFA calendar to all friends of the FFA as an additional means of public relations.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD LEUTHOLD, Ohio  
(Chairman)

BOB ZELLER, Washington

ROYCE HAGAMAN, North Carolina

KENNETH AUSTIN, Michigan

ANTHONY SOARES, Rhode Island

PEDRO M. RIVERA, Puerto Rico

RAYMOND DOLLOFF,

New Hampshire



### **National Public Speaking Contest Committee**

We the members of the 1953 National Public Speaking Contest Committee, recommend the following:

1. To be added to Article IV, that deductions be made of 40 points per minute or part thereof for speeches under eight minutes in length.
2. To be added to Article IV, that deductions be made of 20 points per minute or part thereof for speeches over ten minutes in length.
3. To amend Article V, Rules 6, to read that a timekeeper shall be designated who will record the time used by each contestant in delivering his speech, noting undertime and overtime, if any, for which deductions should be made.
4. To amend Part III of the Score Card to include less under-time deductions 40 points for each minute or part thereof; and less overtime deductions 20 points per minute or part thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

WARNER JOHNSON, North Dakota  
(Chairman)

FRANKLIN A. ROBINSON, Maryland

JEROLD JOHNSON, Utah

BILL KIPFER, Indiana

BOBBY LEE KIRK, Mississippi

HARVEY P. WOOD, Maine

PHIL SMITH, New Mexico

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### **Report of The Proceedings Committee**

We, the committee on Proceedings for 1953, hereby submit the following report:

We recommend that this year's Proceedings follow the general outline of last year's Proceedings with the following changes and additions:

- I. Include the following pictures accompanied by appropriate articles:
  - a. General Electric House of Magic
  - b. 25th Anniversary Pageant
  - c. Unveiling of commemorative stamp
  - d. President Dwight D. Eisenhower's address

- e. Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson's address
  - f. Honorable Oveta Culp Hobby's address
  - g. Assistant Postmaster General Albert J. Robertson's address
  - h. Entire group of past national officers present at the 1953 convention
  - i. Foreign visitors
  - j. The Youth Exchange members
- II. We suggest that the cover be designed the same as the convention program cover.

We give the Board of Directors full power to make any changes they see fit in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

EMMETT McCRACKEN, JR.,  
(Chairman) South Carolina  
ROGER STANDAGE, Nebraska  
JOHN ROY, New Jersey  
DUANE G. RENCKEN, Oregon  
CARL HAUGEBERG, North Dakota  
DAVID GARDINER, Rhode Island

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### **Report of Committee on 1953-54 Program of Work**

We, the committee on the 1953-54 Program of Work, make the following recommendations:

1. That a special national committee including several FFA members and State Executive Secretaries or State Advisors be selected to completely revise the current national Program of Work and submit it to the Program of Work Committee at the 1954 National FFA Convention for consideration and subsequent presentation to the convention delegates.

2. That the special committee on revising the national program of work be guided by the following specific requests:

- a. Develop a national FFA program of work that deals specifically with the activities and objectives to be accomplished by the national FFA organization and its officers.
- b. Develop as a separate document a list of activities which the national organization may consider as an

important guide to State associations and local chapters to use in developing their respective programs of work.

The committee recognizes the fact that a complete revision of the Program of Work cannot be made in time for adoption for the year 1953-1954. We, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following activities, goals, ways and means for 1953-54:

Activity	Goals	Ways and Means
<b>I. SUPERVISED FARMING</b>		
<b>1. Producing food for world demands</b>	100% member participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Assist in increasing production of food commodities as recommended by the Secretary of Agriculture.</li> <li>b. Use improved farming methods.</li> <li>c. Arrange for adequate credits in order to achieve these goals.</li> <li>d. Produce more agricultural products for home consumption.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Increasing size of farming programs</b>	100% member participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Every chapter member increase the size and scope of his investment.</li> <li>b. Urge every individual to develop a farming program to the limit of his opportunities and ambitions and toward establishment in full-time farming.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Improving livestock and crop production</b>	100% member participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Use improved breeding and feeding practices.</li> <li>b. Urge members to use improved sires, either individually or cooperatively, or join artificial insemination associations.</li> <li>c. Urge higher quality foundation animals.</li> <li>d. Urge members to use improved strains of seeds.</li> <li>e. Urge members to harvest and to market crops more efficiently to prevent losses.</li> <li>f. Urge treatment of seeds to prevent disease.</li> <li>g. Encourage improvement of soil fertility.</li> <li>h. Urge members to carry crops and livestock insurance for self-protection.</li> <li>i. Urge practice of efficient weed control.</li> <li>j. Urge practice of insect control.</li> </ul>



Activity	Goals	Ways and Means
4. Preventing livestock losses	100% member participation	a. Urge careful handling of all livestock by members. b. Urge humane and practical stock devices made as farm mechanics projects. c. When necessary, urge vaccination of livestock to prevent disease. d. Urge strict sanitation practices.
5. Farm Management Practices	100% member participation	a. Urge the keeping of accurate farm records. b. Make changes in management practices cautiously. c. Urge sound soil conservation practices and participation in Foundation Soil and Water Management contests.

## II. COOPERATION

1. Providing experience in cooperative effort	100% member participation	a. Encourage members to cooperate in chapter activities. b. Urge members to buy and sell cooperatively. c. Urge chapters to promote cooperative enterprises. d. Encourage chapters to participate in contests sponsored by the American Institute of Cooperation. e. Encourage members to attend meetings of local cooperatives in order to get a better knowledge of cooperative action.
2. Investigate the legal aspects and liabilities of chapter cooperatives	100% member participation	a. Urge chapters to secure legal advice.
3. Assist in promoting world-wide understanding and improvement of agriculture.	100% State participation	a. National organization request information from Food and Agriculture Organization. b. Provide information to State Associations. c. Request from the Federal Operations Administration information concerning possibilities of a contractual relationship for the purpose of providing funds to the FFA organization for Foreign Exchange Program.

Activity	Goals	Ways and Means
<b>III. COMMUNITY SERVICE</b>		
<b>1. Stress repairing and reconditioning of farm machinery</b>	100% member and chapter participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Chapters assist in repair of machinery in community.</li> <li>b. Encourage members to offer their services to farmers.</li> <li>c. Encourage members to protect farm machinery from wear, weather, etc.</li> <li>d. Assist agriculture instructors in farm machinery repair courses for farmers.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Guarding and protecting life and property</b>	100% of State associations with safety program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Cooperate with agencies promoting safety.</li> <li>b. Encourage books on first aid and safety in chapter libraries.</li> <li>c. Encourage chapter discussions and demonstrations on fire prevention.</li> <li>d. Encourage members to enroll in first aid courses.</li> <li>e. Secure and distribute material on farm fire prevention.</li> <li>f. Encourage safety campaigns at home, on high ways, in the shop, and in fields against fire and other destructive forces.</li> <li>g. Urge every chapter to have available first aid measures.</li> <li>h. Publicize safety programs.</li> <li>i. Urge that safety devices be kept in place on farm machines.</li> <li>j. Encourage farm safety programs, i.e. contests.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Conserving resources</b>	100% of chapters and members participating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Urge cooperation with various conservation agencies.</li> <li>b. Emphasize the need for conservation to both chapters and individuals.</li> <li>c. Encourage soil conservation by crop rotation and cover crops.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Repairing farm buildings and equipment</b>	100% member participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Encourage all members and chapters to discover needed repairs and undertake same.</li> <li>b. Encourage chapters to provide, cooperatively, available materials needed for home maintenance.</li> </ul>

Activity	Goals	Ways and Means
<b>IV. LEADERSHIP</b>		
1. Advancing members to higher degrees	100% of States naming full quota of qualified American Farmer applicants	<p>c. Encourage the use of school farm shops for repairing of farm implements.</p> <p>a. Urge careful and early explanation of progressive features of degree work to Green Hands and members, and plan long time farming programs.</p> <p>b. Encourage members to keep scrap book records of their achievements.</p> <p>c. Urge each State to provide uniform State Farmer application blanks.</p> <p>d. Emphasize early submission of American Farmer Degree applications.</p> <p>e. Urge adherence to chapter farmer qualifications, and carry out Official Ceremony.</p>
2. Providing chapter libraries	100% of the chapters with libraries which include 5 or more FFA books	<p>a. Prepare and distribute suggested list of books for FFA chapters.</p> <p>b. Send out suggestions on establishing and maintaining libraries.</p> <p>c. Suggest discussion of chapter libraries at leadership training schools and conferences.</p>
3. Participating in public speaking	100% of chapters and States holding public speaking contests	<p>a. Encourage every chapter to hold a contest with a high percentage of members participating.</p> <p>b. Stress the value of participation to the individuals regardless of prizes or honors.</p> <p>c. Encourage districts to participate in State contests.</p> <p>d. Encourage all States to participate in regional contests.</p>
4. Following parliamentary procedure	100% of the chapters conducting meetings according to accepted parliamentary procedure	<p>a. Urge individual members to study parliamentary procedure.</p> <p>b. Encourage chapter discussion of parliamentary procedure.</p> <p>c. Encourage local and State parliamentary procedure demonstrations and contests.</p>



Activity	Goals	Ways and Means
5. Building programs of work	100% of States and chapters with written continuing programs of work with emphasis on revisions to keep the program current	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d. Urge chapters to include at least one book on parliamentary procedure in chapter library.</li> <li>e. Each chapter to have a Parliamentarian.</li> <li>a. Encourage more carefully built programs and closer attention to them.</li> <li>b. Urge special emphasis on program building in leadership schools.</li> <li>c. Print and distribute the national program of work immediately following the National Convention.</li> <li>d. Encourage more chapters to compete in National Chapter Contest.</li> <li>e. Revise program of work each year.</li> </ul>
6. Providing State publications	100% of States with an official publication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Encourage the maintenance of State FFA publications.</li> <li>b. Encourage exchange of State publications with other associations.</li> <li>c. Offer constructive suggestions on improving present publications.</li> <li>d. Include in publications copies of winning State FFA speeches of the year.</li> <li>e. Serve as media of information on national organization activities.</li> <li>f. Include helpful agricultural hints.</li> </ul>
7. Providing leadership training	100% State participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Encourage State and district leadership training schools and conferences.</li> <li>b. Encourage States to provide leadership training in connection with State meetings.</li> <li>c. Encourage all chapters to provide at least one leadership school or conference during the year.</li> <li>d. Urge special leadership training school for State officers.</li> <li>e. Provide special leadership training school for national officers.</li> <li>f. Encourage leadership training activities at all State FFA Camps.</li> </ul>

Activity	Goals	Ways and Means
8. Maintaining public relations	Keep the public informed on what the FFA is and does	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Encourage more extensive and regular use of local, county, and State newspapers by chapters and State associations.</li> <li>b. Secure more articles in national magazines.</li> <li>c. Urge taking of more and better pictures of FFA work for use as illustrations.</li> <li>d. Encourage States and chapters to provide radio and television programs where possible.</li> <li>e. Encourage wider use of windshield stickers in States where legal.</li> <li>f. Continue to maintain contact with such organizations as the New Farmers of America, Future Homemakers of America, Future Farmers of Japan and other organizations patterned after the FFA.</li> <li>g. Each chapter sponsor at least one local display per year, preferably during FFA Week.</li> <li>h. Keep in touch with former FFA members.</li> <li>i. Encourage the use of official FFA uniforms by members.</li> <li>j. National organization put on FFA exhibits.</li> <li>k. Encourage subscriptions to the National FUTURE FARMER magazine.</li> </ul>
9. Continuing National FFA Week	100% of State Associations participating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Set aside the week of George Washington's birthday as National FFA Week.</li> <li>b. The national organization send out material for National FFA Week to the State Associations, who, in turn, forward it to the chapters.</li> <li>c. Request that the President and the State Governors proclaim National FFA Week.</li> </ul>

Activity	Goals	Ways and Means
<b>V. EARNINGS AND SAVINGS</b>		
<b>1. Buying Security bonds</b>	100% of chapters participating in Security Bond Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Send out U. S. Treasury literature on how and where to make purchases.</li> <li>b. Suggest that member savings and chapter accumulations be used for purchases.</li> <li>c. Urge State associations and chapters to put on drives to encourage members and others to buy Security bonds and stamps.</li> <li>d. Recommend Security bonds and stamps as awards in the FFA contests.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Practicing thrift</b>	100% of chapters and members participating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Stimulate interest in systematic savings for all except those who can invest in their supervised farming programs.</li> <li>b. Encourage chapter members to earn money cooperatively to help finance chapter activities.</li> <li>c. Urge every State Association and chapter to have a budget and safeguard its funds.</li> <li>d. Encourage members to invest in productive enterprises and Security bonds.</li> <li>e. Urge every chapter to operate a thrift bank or some other means of systematic savings.</li> <li>f. Encourage local chapters to earn and deposit money in their chapter treasury for loans to members desiring to borrow money for the development of supervised farming programs.</li> </ul>
<b>VI. CONDUCT OF MEETINGS</b>		
<b>1. Using Official Manual</b>	100% of members having access to official Manual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Urge State associations to secure Manuals in quantities for distribution and sale to chapters.</li> <li>b. Emphasize the need for having up-to-date Manuals with which to work.</li> <li>c. Urge that new Manuals be included in every chapter library.</li> <li>d. Urge discussion of revision of the constitution at chapter meetings and conventions.</li> </ul>



Activity	Goals	Ways and Means
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e. Urge every Green Hand to own a Manual.</li> <li>f. Urge study of Manual as phase of leadership training schools and conferences.</li> <li>g. Urge individual members to study and be familiar with official Manual.</li> </ul>
2. Using Official Secretary and Treasurer books	100% of chapters using both books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Call further attention to the value of these books.</li> <li>b. Urge filing copies of completed books as permanent chapter records.</li> <li>c. Urge discussion of both books at chapter meetings and at leadership training schools and conferences.</li> <li>d. Urge well-kept books.</li> <li>e. Encourage each chapter to keep a scrapbook.</li> </ul>
3. Providing Official meeting paraphernalia, equipment and supplies	100% of chapters and State associations having standard materials with which to work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Send out lists with information on how and where to obtain.</li> <li>b. Stress loyalty to the national organization and urge the use of official materials.</li> <li>c. Urge discussion of standard materials at leadership training schools.</li> <li>d. Point out advantages in patronizing official companies.</li> </ul>
4. Using Official ceremonies	100% of chapters using opening and closing, and degree ceremonies according to the Official Manual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Urge that all officers learn their parts and that ceremonies be rehearsed.</li> <li>b. Suggest special training on ceremonies for new officers.</li> <li>c. Recommend discussing the meaning and significance of ceremonies at chapter meetings and leadership schools.</li> <li>d. Urge practice on unison parts, especially Flag salute.</li> </ul>
5. Planning State Conventions	100% of State associations hold Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Plan in ample time.</li> <li>b. 100% of all chapters sending delegates.</li> <li>c. Urge all State Farmer candidates to attend.</li> <li>d. Secure outstanding speakers and entertainers.</li> </ul>

**6. Meetings**

Every member attend 100% of chapter meetings

- e. Encourage participation of as many members as is possible through committees and other activities.
- a. Have at least two regular meeting dates per month scheduled in school calendar.
- b. Special meetings for emergencies. Hold at least two-summer meetings per chapter.
- c. Prepare well-planned program beforehand.
- d. Have one good entertainment feature for 100% participation at each regular meeting.
- e. Urge 100% chapter attendance at federation or district meetings.
- f. Urge chapters to prepare agenda and make available to members prior to chapter meetings.

**VII. SCHOLARSHIP****1. Improved scholarship**

100% of members show outstanding ability as evidenced by scholastic activities, and have a satisfactory record as certified to by the local school superintendent or principal

- a. Devote one chapter meeting annually to scholarship.
- b. Encourage members to strive for scholastic honors.
- c. Encourage posting FFA honor rolls periodically.
- d. Have advanced boys assist new students.
- e. Offer chapter awards to outstanding scholars.

**VIII. RECREATION****1. Encourage supervised recreation**

100% member participation

- a. Organize athletic teams and encourage chapter and district competition.
- b. Sponsor parent and son banquets.
- c. Cooperate with F.H.A. departments and all related school organizations.
- d. Organize supervised camping trips and encourage establishment of State camps.
- e. Sponsor recreation programs in local community.

Activity	Goals	Ways and Means
<b>IX. GENERAL</b>		
<b>1. Maintaining membership</b>	375,000 active members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Urge establishment of chapters in all departments of vocational agriculture.</li><li>b. 100% membership in FFA of boys enrolled in all-day classes.</li><li>c. Urge payment of individual membership dues to the State Associations by at least October 15 and of national dues by at least November 1.</li><li>d. Encourage establishment of collegiate chapter in every recognized teacher training department.</li><li>e. Urge all members to retain membership for three years after graduation.</li></ul>

Respectfully submitted,

LEO W. CLARK, California  
(Chairman)

GORDON HALL, Arizona

WESLEY PATRICK, Georgia

GARY E. MUELLER, Illinois

GEORGE JOHNSON, JR.,  
Massachusetts

RICHARD ARNOLD, Michigan

DONALD BROTZMAN, New York

ROBERT WORLEY, Pennsylvania



Agawam, Massachusetts, Orchestra



## Report of Committee on Resolutions

We, the committee on resolutions for 1953, on behalf of the Future Farmers of America extend our most sincere thanks and hardest appreciation to the following persons and organizations who participated in or contributed to the success of the Silver Anniversary Convention.

1. To the 1952-53 national officers of the 26th national convention for their untiring efforts and unselfish work in making this convention and this year our most successful.

2. To the members of the National Board of Directors for their able supervision and assistance in advancing the FFA.

3. To the members of the Kansas City Advisory Council for their splendid work in making this year another historic milestone in the road of progress of the FFA.

4. To all railroads and their special representatives who are stimulating FFA efforts with valuable educational awards.

5. To the Honorable William E. Kemp, Mayor of Kansas City, and all Kansas Citizens for their most hearty and warm welcome.

6. To the Honorable Albert J. Robertson, Assistant Postmaster General; Honorable Oveta Culp Hobby, Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; and Honorable Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Agriculture, for the inspiration they have brought to our conventions through their participation.



Members of the Browning, Montana, FFA Chapter, composed largely of Indians presented the beautiful and authentic Buffalo Grass Dance of the Blackfoot Indian Tribe.

7. To all donors to the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Inc. and all others who actually contributed toward making this, our 26th national convention, a success.

8. To the businessmen and officials, and the management of the Municipal Auditorium for their efforts and services rendered in making this a most memorable trip to Kansas City.

9. To all States supplying members of the National FFA Band, and to Dr. Henry S. Brunner, Pennsylvania State College, for his able conducting; and also to the well-organized National Chorus and their Director, Dr. James W. Hatch, Associate State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, New York. Each individual member of these organizations is to be especially commended.

10. To all companies who cooperated in the supplying of authorized general merchandise, banners, rings, emblems, stationery, etc.

11. To all individuals, and organizations who participated in furnishing entertainment to participants of the 26th national convention.

12. To all judges, timekeepers and Future Farmers who participated in the public speaking and national chapter contests.

13. To all organizations and companies from which participants in the 1952-53 national FFA convention have benefited.

14. To Mr. Clarence Hoff, Manager of the Municipal Auditorium for the sincerely cooperative spirit he has always exhibited toward the national FFA organization.

15. To all honored guests of the 26th national convention.

16. To all magazines, radio companies and newspapers who have so generously publicized the events transpiring at this convention.

17. To all hotels and other housing facilities who have accommodated our FFA representatives.

18. To all donors of prizes not previously mentioned.

19. To all other individuals serving the FFA and assisting with the 26th national convention.

20. To the representatives taking part in the impressive massing of the State flag ceremony.

21. To the Wimauma, Florida String Band; Lake Village, Arkansas String Band; Agawam, Massachusetts Orchestra; Chillicothe, Missouri String Band; and the Jacksonville, Texas String Band for the excellent entertainment furnished during the convention.

22. To visiting youth groups and delegations from foreign countries who visited our national convention.

23. To all the people who attended the 26th national convention.

24. To all the companies who were hosts to the FFA boys at their plants.

25. To Sam E. Wallace, Boy Scouts of America; Francis William Pressly, 4-H Clubs; and Roene Malcom, Future Homemakers of America for their greetings to the convention.

26. To the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and also the American Royal Association.

27. To the Hawaiian Association for their beautiful flowers.

28. To Dr. Chester H. Lang, Chairman of the Sponsoring Committee of the FFA Foundation, Inc.

29. To the Honorable Dwight David Eisenhower, President of the United States of America, our special thanks for his participation in our Silver Anniversary Convention program.

30. We, the delegates, propose that the Silver Anniversary Convention go on record as casting a vote of appreciation to all individuals who through much integrity and foresight play such an important role in the forming of our great organization.

31. To the Browning, Montana, FFA Chapter for their Indian dance.

The committee wishes to extend its thanks and appreciation to any individual, group, or organization not herewith specifically mentioned who has helped in any way in making this convention a success. The committee authorizes the Board of Directors to add any resolutions they may see fit.

Respectfully submitted,

LAWRENCE HALL, Kentucky  
(Chairman)

ALLEN TABOR, Georgia

JOSEPH MARTIN, New York

HARRY CHAPMAN, JR.,  
South Carolina

GERALD SIMMONS, Louisiana

RILEY MICKELSON, Indiana





The Honorable Albert J. Robertson, Assistant Postmaster General of the United States unveils the commemorative postage stamp honoring the Silver Anniversary of the Future Farmers of America. Jimmy Dillon, National FFA President, and Senator Frank Carlson, from Kansas, observe the unveiling.

### ALBERT J. ROBERTSON

Assistant Postmaster General

"To be a farmer is a noble ambition. Agriculture is the foundation of our civilization and it is to the farmer that men turn for the most basic of their worldly needs—an adequate supply of food.

"By joining the Future Farmers of America you have indicated that you expect to become a farmer and a good farmer as well. Through your vocational agriculture classes you are studying the best ways to produce the goods we need to keep our nation strong.

"Through the activities of your organization you also get splendid basic training which will equip you to make an active and vital contribution as a citizen to the affairs of the community in which you reside.

"The Postmaster General and the members of his staff felt that the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Future Farmers of America was an important national event that should be honored by one of the thirteen commemorative stamps issued by the Post Office Department in 1953.

"The Future Farmers of America Commemorative Stamp has, therefore, been authorized and is being placed on sale here in Kansas City, Missouri, for the first time today.

"An initial printing of 110 million of the stamps will carry the Post Office Department's salute to the Future Farmers of America, wherever the United States mail goes, in this country and all over the world.

"We believe this stamp is a fitting tribute to the Future Farmers of America and that its use by our fellow citizens will remind them of the vital contributions made by our American farmers in maintaining and advancing our free way of life."



Jimmy Dillon, National FFA President, presents the Honorable Oveta Culp Hobby, Secretary of the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, with a gold paperweight bearing her name.

### OVETA CULP HOBBY

Secretary, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

"Before I say a few words to you about the next twenty-five years of the Future Farmers of America, I want to congratulate



you on your first twenty-five. During the past quarter century you have built an organization which has served your country well. It has provided opportunities and incentives for its members to advance in their chosen profession, and at the same time has encouraged wholesome activities which make for good citizenship, character and sturdy independence.

“Another force which must motivate our action is conscience. In your FFA Creed you say ‘in being happy myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me.’ You may win the material things of life through your individual initiative and you may be fully confident of your abilities, but you still cannot enjoy the fruits of your efforts unless, within you, there is the clear conscience which tells you that the gains have come from right conduct.

“Independence, freedom, initiative, the dignity of the individual—these are foundations of our American life that we must hold firm. You, Future Farmers, and other youth of the nation will soon be handed the task of preserving this foundation and strengthening it as other generations have done before you. Whether you be a leader chosen by your fellow men to represent them, or a citizen exercising your privilege in the voting booth, you will need to act with knowledge of public affairs and human behavior.”

### **EZRA TAFT BENSON**

**Secretary, Department of Agriculture**

“We in the Department of Agriculture are fully aware of the magnificent service the Future Farmers of America, including parents and leaders and vo-ag instructors, have rendered to agriculture and to the entire Nation. All of us in the Department—and especially those in the Cooperative Extension Service—are proud to lock arms with the Future Farmers of America in a mutual endeavor to train and inspire farm youth to meet gallantly the challenges in agricultural and citizenship achievement that lie directly ahead.

“Like the generations of farmers before you, you have labored in the fields by your father’s side, and in the kitchen alongside your mother. You have driven a team or a tractor at an early age. You know what it is to work from sun-up to sun-down when a job has got to be done. May you ever enjoy the satisfaction of honest toil. The decree that by the sweat of his brow man should eat bread is still basic. You will never wish or dream yourself into heaven. You





The Honorable Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, delivered an inspiring address to the members of the Future Farmers of America in attendance at the convention.

must pay the price in toil, in sacrifice, and righteous living. This is what develops real character.

“Your rural heritage has given you opportunity to learn perseverance, self-reliance, thrift, cooperation, and tolerance. It has given you a love of freedom. It has taught you an awareness of Providence as evidenced in nature.

“Now those are the qualities—the ideals—the characteristics of our people—that have made this Nation and its leaders great.

“The future of American agriculture depends upon many factors. But most of all it depends upon you. You are agriculture’s greatest asset. You are our hope for the future. Your character, your skill, your vitality, your understanding of agriculture’s problems, your capacity to cooperate, your ability to lead—these will be decisive factors in the future of America.”



Jimmy Dillon, National President of the Future Farmers of America, confers the Honorary American Farmer Degree upon the Honorable Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States.

## DWIGHT DAVID EISENHOWER

President of the United States

My Young Friends:

I want to visit with you tonight about our country, and also about that important part of it—agriculture—to which you are devoting your lives.

But first, I want to extend my warm congratulations on the silver anniversary of your splendid organization.

I wish we could have had similar organizations when I worked on the farm during my boyhood in Abilene.

Mastery of good farming is, of course, your immediate concern as Future Farmers of America. But for his well-being today, the



farmer must look not merely to his own skills and his own fertile acres; he must look to the far corners of this broad land and on beyond to such far-off regions as Malaya and the Belgian Congo.

The interests of you young men and women here cannot be limited, isolated, or described by any single term such as "agriculture." Your vision in the coming years must range beyond your immediate problems and your home communities. Your vision must encompass the entire globe. Certainly for you and your parents, the activities of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense are as important as those of the Secretary of Agriculture. Your fortunes are and will be as directly and intimately affected by the foreign policies of the United States as they will be by any farm policy of the government.

By the same token, our agriculture has a far deeper meaning for the entire American people than is represented only in the abundant products of the soil. Our great cities—our mighty industries—our business and professional accomplishments—our educational institutions—our high living standards—are possible because of the efficiency and productivity of the American farm.

Likewise, your own agricultural interests and income are inseparably tied up with the health and prosperity of working men and women and the industries in our towns and cities. One element of our nation can scarcely exist—and certainly cannot prosper—independently of the others.

This truth is applicable within agriculture itself. There is, for instance, the problem created by the desire of the cattle raiser for cheap feed, while the producer of that feed seeks a good market and high prices. The simple fact is that we must seek methods of increasing stability and prosperity in all elements of agriculture. Such an agriculture is imperative to the well-being of all Americans.

Because our national interest is so deeply involved, I think it would be well for us to take stock of where we are today and where we are headed in our agriculture. I am going to talk about this without apology to you young people of this audience, because I think you have as much interest in the matter as do your parents. I know you have a far greater understanding of the factors at work than did young people during my own youth.

Let us talk first about some disagreeable facts. There are difficult problems today in our agriculture—problems deeply rooted in our recent past. By last January, farm prices, farm income and our agricultural exports had all gone into full retreat, while the cost of the things farmers had to buy were on the increase.

This economic grinding machine hurt many of our farm people, but especially young farmers just starting out—including thousands of ex-GIs who had turned to farming, or returned to their farms, after the war. I understand and am deeply concerned with their problems.



The developing cost-price squeeze found the nation's cattlemen in especial difficulty early this year. It even forced many of them to liquidate their herds.

One of the first official acts of this administration dealt with this problem. Price controls were promptly removed, as was the compulsory grading that had been obstructing the market. Secretary of Agriculture Benson then vigorously attacked the problem from the merchandising standpoint. He obtained the whole-hearted cooperation of cattlemen's associations—meat packers—wholesale and retail outlets. Those efforts helped increase beef sales by 26 per cent during the first eight months of 1953 compared with a year ago.

Trying and difficult as was this situation, a disaster of nature's making came to aggravate the trouble. A drought of devastating intensity blistered the great Southwest. Economic misfortune confronted hundreds of thousands of Americans on ranches and farms. The cattle forced upon the market from the stricken areas further depressed prices.

Clearly, here was a case for action by a government concerned with the welfare of all our people.

Emergency government programs were quickly set up to provide low cost feed in the disaster areas. Emergency credit, reduced freight rates, increased government purchases of beef were swiftly arranged. The Congress, responding to the national interest in this crisis, provided 150 million dollars for emergency loans and low-cost feed and seed.

That was during June and July. Since then the drought has grown more serious, especially here in Missouri. I assure you young people, your families, and Americans generally, that the federal government is continuing, and will continue as long as necessary, to assist in meeting the misfortunes of our people in the drought areas. Only a few days ago, an additional 10 million dollars were allocated from emergency funds to help pay the cost of transporting midwestern hay to drought-stricken livestock farmers.

This morning, to develop additional plans to meet this situation, Secretary Benson and Director Peterson of the federal Civil Defense administration met here in Kansas City with the governors of the states most seriously affected by the widening drought. Tomorrow morning I shall meet with the governors to receive their suggestions on the cooperation of their states with the federal government in this important effort.

My own conviction is that the principle of partnership between the federal government and the state governments should govern our approach to such emergency problems. Only in this way can we gain the advantages of local knowledge, efficiency and incentive on the one hand, and of the wider federal resources on the other.

On the other hand, there are many problems relating to agriculture that are predominantly federal in character. There is evidence of this fact in the many constructive legislative steps taken thus far

by the eighty-third Congress—such legislation as raising the minimum quota limitations on the 1954 wheat crop—authorizing wheat for Pakistan—providing 100 million dollars for foreign currencies to expend for farm commodities—inaugurating a new upstream conservation-type flood control program—authorizing reorganization of the Department of Agriculture—extending the reciprocal trade agreements act and creating a commission to study foreign economic policy. These and other actions by the Congress have been a significant contribution both to the present and the future welfare of American farmers.

Before plans can be laid for the future of American agriculture, it is important for us to understand its major problem today.

This trouble—aside from the drought—is simply stated: Our war-expanded agriculture produces more than enough, in some lines, to meet market demands and reserve requirements at present prices.

Why, then, hasn't this problem become more insistently troublesome before now?

I think the reason is plain.

It was World War II inflation; then huge American agricultural exports, financed by our own billions; then still another burst of inflation caused by the Korean war—it was these emergencies, these calamities, this rampant inflation, that provided the critical margin for high agricultural prices during the past decade. It was this series of events that blurred the basic problem and deferred its solution to later years.

I grew up among farmers. I know they do not want their future prosperity contingent upon crises of one sort or another. No one can hate war, inflation and crisis more than does the farmer. Instead, he wants farm programs to be orderly, long-lived, soundly-based and carefully devised by the best brains and experience in agriculture. This, I am sure, is especially the conviction of you young people. You have long lives still before you and you must think in terms of sound and lasting farm programs fitted to your future.

It is for these reasons that we have established an 18-member commission to help devise programs for the farmers' future—a commission with twelve active farmers as members to insure that practical men help formulate a sound national agricultural policy.

This is why the Department of Agriculture has been working closely with the national farm organizations—and through them, directly with active farmers—to develop its own recommendations for a farm program that will solidly advance the national interest.

That is why special commodity committees and the agricultural colleges are hard at work with the Department of Agriculture on the more technical programs.

It is why the Senate committee on agriculture has commenced studies of conservation and development of our land and water resources.

This is also why the House of Representatives committee on agriculture is now holding hearings right at the grass roots, taking

testimony directly from active farmers and their leaders in the villages and towns of America to find out what the experienced farmer believes is necessary for a sound farm program.

These are the most thorough probings into the fundamentals of American agriculture in many years. They have been actively under way for some time. While they have not yet been completed, I want to say now these three things about these broad efforts:

First, I intend to weigh carefully the many recommendations developed by these groups of men experienced in agriculture. Based on those views, I will submit my recommendations to the Congress early next year on the kind of program I believe to be in the nation's best interest.

I look upon the formulation of a sound farm policy as a bipartisan undertaking. The welfare of our farm families knows no politics—and I assure you there shall be none in the approach of this administration.

Second, I want to talk with you about price supports.

Now, these laws expire in December, 1954. This means that in the next session of Congress, various alternatives will necessarily be considered and weighed and resolved. These alternatives are, first, to extend present laws exactly as now written; second, to extend them with changes, and third to revise them radically in favor of a new program. As all people in agriculture know, there is a great diversity of opinion as to what should be done about those expiring laws.

We must—and will—continue faithfully to administer present price support laws now on the statute books. Further, all of us know that the price support principle must be a part of any future farm program.

These are extremely complex issues. They are now being analyzed and worked at as hard as thoughtful people can, with as much expert and practical judgment being brought to bear as can be obtained in all agriculture—in large measure, obtained from practical farmers themselves. I have kept in close personal touch with the progress of these studies. The goal is a solidly-based, comprehensive farm program that will remedy present difficulties in the existing laws—a program that will build markets, safeguard farm income, and protect consumers.

I assure you that this better program can—and will be—devised. The farmers need such a program in their own interest. The consumers need one in their own interest. But keep this clearly in mind: No program is going to be proposed by this administration, nor, I am sure, will a program be passed by Congress that fails to provide solidly for the national interest by continuing prosperity in American agriculture.

Third, I think we are now ready to start hammering out this solidly-based program for the future.

To launch the final phase of this work, I am, first, calling together on October 24th, in the cabinet room at the White House,



the National Agricultural Advisory commission and Secretary Benson.

Later, as your farm organizations and the committees of Congress complete their essential studies, the secretary and I will confer with the ranking members of these committees and with your farm leaders to obtain the results of their grass-roots studies now nearing completion.

Thus we will firm up the needed program—and we will have the program ready for the consideration of the Congress early next year. After that, of course, begin the exhaustive committee hearings and debate in the Congress. The end result will be as sound and as carefully thought out a farm program as practical experience, expert knowledge, and good judgment can devise.

I trust that this sketchy outline of the developing farm program has some interest for all of you because of your immediate economic and professional concerns. But, for just a moment, let us look at your wider interests as Americans and citizens of the world—and at the kind of world in which you may spend your years. And let us not forget that the demands of these wider interests must always be met satisfactorily before specific programs affecting any profession or calling can have validity.

In the past half century our nation's population has almost doubled. In the next six years our population will grow by the equivalent of the total present population of our great neighbor Canada. The promise that this rapid growth of our country holds out to all our people, and especially farmers, is tremendous. It represents 7,000 more breakfasts—7,000 more dinners—7,000 more suppers, each day than the day before.

Combined with this rapidly growing market is the amazing progress in science and invention which daily opens startling new vistas for all of our people.

There is no foretelling what American ingenuity will offer the nation in the next few decades. In my lifetime have come the automobile, television, electronics, home freezers, widespread use of the telephone and electricity on our farms, good roads, power machinery, vastly improved fertilizer and insecticides—and not the least, civilian and military aircraft, some flying beyond the speed of sound, some with a range of 10,000 miles.

With such startling developments in our recent past, who can foretell the promise of the future ahead of you young people?

In this developing society in which you are speedily to take a leading part, you must never permit your government to indulge in the fanciful notion that work for the individual is a thing of the past. If ever this should become true, all fun in living will disappear. Your own property, your own security, your own opportunity, your own liberties, must be earned—they cannot be bestowed.

It is government's function to preserve your possession of these rights and opportunities and privileges, and to protect you against

every disaster which is of such a kind that the individual alone cannot conquer it. In the necessity of constantly adjusting the processes of government so as always to provide for needed protection to its citizens, while at the same time insuring perpetuation of their economic, political and intellectual freedoms, we find the great challenge of America.

So—what is promised you is opportunity to get ahead, to make of yourselves what you can. What is promised you, too, is a chance to keep a free government free—a government carrying forward in keeping with the nation's ideals—a government of limited powers, preserving your freedom, responding to your will, and insuring that the nation is secure.

I foresee no limits to your future, It is truly boundless. Anyone my age who deeply believes in America sincerely congratulates you as you start the exciting and challenging journey through life, even though he cannot see and experience what you are going to see and experience. But he does know that the whole adventure will be more fascinating, more spectacular, more stimulating and more rewarding than the events my generation has witnessed.

As I say good night to you, I deeply wish that I could be given the words to express the boundless confidence I have in the ability and character of America's young people. I have lived with them and gained inspiration from them in peace and in war—in many corners of the earth. To them, America is indebted for every military victory she has won—for wars are always fought by the young.

We know that keeping our nation secure and the world at peace will remain the predominant, overshadowing problem until an equitable method of easing the world's tensions has been found—until we have devised a way to turn man's major effort from his own destruction to his own betterment and salvation. Beyond all doubt the aspiration of America is peace; to achieve it your government in all its branches is laboring earnestly and persistently, and in doing so seeks the understanding support of every single one of our citizens.

In this question, as in all others of major import, the fortunes of you young people are more definitely at stake than are those of older groups. This world is yours to live in; you must help shape it to your desires and aspirations. I believe that the energy, the courage, the imagination, the readiness to sacrifice, of American youth, when united behind this purpose, will constitute such a force that obstacles will fall and victory finally emerge.

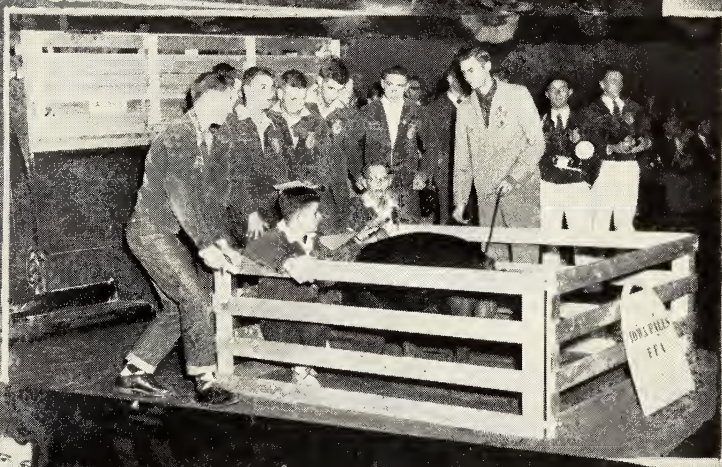
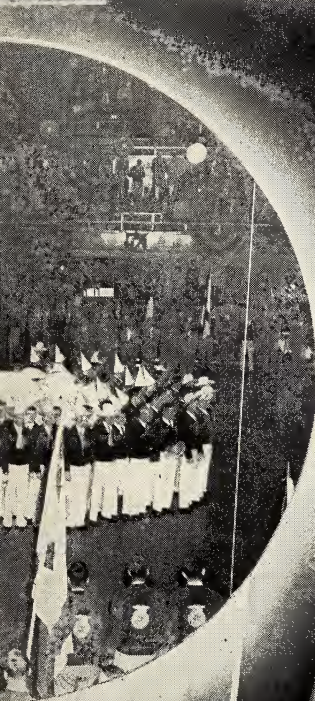
As you till your farms, go to school, plan your futures, raise your families, remember that only he can deserve America who stands forever ready to give America all he has.

To live for America as devotedly as so many thousands have died for her is the noblest ambition any of her children can have. Fortified and strengthened by this one truth, there is no problem you will not solve. May God truly bless you all!







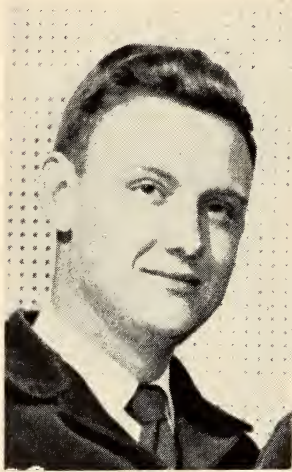




# National Student Officer Reports

## Report of National President

The happiest moment of my life came on October 16, 1952, when, having been elected National President, I walked to the platform to assume my duties as the leader of our organization. As I review the experiences of the past year I am almost unable to persuade myself that this has not been just a magnificent dream. In one sense, it was a dream, an ambition close to my heart during my years as a high school FFA member. Every good Future Farmer dreams of someday becoming National President or National Star Farmer. To be elected to this position is to see a dream come true.



JIMMY DILLON  
*President*

It seems only yesterday that, as a high school freshman, I walked into my first Vocational Agriculture class. I did not expect that on an October day seven years in the future I would be giving a summary of, and a farewell to the most enjoyable, educational, and influential year of my life, a year as National President of the Future Farmers of America.

My experiences with Future Farmers and the work of our organization have shown me that nothing is more thrilling than to work with the soil near nature and the God who made it. Farmers, it is said, are the backbone of our nation. This indeed places a great responsibility on the agricultural forces of America. The FFA is doing a magnificent job all over America in promoting the interests of better agriculture, and we must never falter in this task.

During my year as National President I have had many opportunities to see the nation-wide activities of this organization that reaches from the State of Washington to Puerto Rico and from the State of Maine to Hawaii. I would like to tell you about some of my activities and travels all over the nation to enable you to better understand the national scope of the Future Farmers of America.

On October 18, I enjoyed riding in the American Royal Parade with Senator Harry Darby, and at 12:00 noon of that day I appeared on the national Farm and Home Hour over N.B.C. The next few weeks, after returning to my home state, were full ones because of the many requests that I had for appearances. During these weeks I spoke to FFA chapters, high school assemblies, civic clubs and numerous other meetings.

On November 18, I boarded a train for Chicago to speak to a group of Sears-Roebuck & Company employees. I enjoyed very much the visit with Mr. Ed Condon and their staff.

On January 27, the semester completed at L.S.U., I boarded a plane for Washington, D. C. This was a moment for which I had long waited. It was a pleasure once again to meet the other National Officers. We were very happy to have Malcolm Ellis join us as the National Officer from the North Atlantic Region. During the fine days in Washington we met with the donors of the FFA Foundation. During the next week we had leadership meetings with the Board of Directors, and met with many people in Washington. Our visit with the Foundation of American Agriculture, Mr. Wheeler McMillan of the FARM JOURNAL, the American Institute of Cooperation, and the National Grange will long be remembered. February 3, is a day which we, the national officers, will long remember as one of the highlights of our year. On that day we met President Eisenhower, at which time we invited him to attend our Silver Anniversary Convention. We were also privileged to meet Honorable Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Agriculture, and Honorable Oveta Culp Hobby, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

On Thursday morning February 5, Mr. Swanson, Mr. Farrar, and your national officers boarded a train for Philadelphia as our first stop on a National Good-Will Tour. We went to Independence Square where we saw Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. Later that afternoon we met Mr. Bob Reed, Editor of COUNTRY GENTLEMAN, and his staff, and went through their headquarters. February 6, we found ourselves in New York where we visited the American Oil Company, and toured the Boy Scouts of America Headquarters. The rest of the day was spent with the United States Rubber Company. The following day we met Mr. Phil Alampi and made a radio broadcast with him. We visited the Dairymen's League Cooperative Association. We had a most enjoyable day visiting Esso Standard Oil Company, AVCO Manufacturing Corporation, and The Allied Chemical and Dye Corporation. That evening I had the opportunity to appear on the Firestone Hour over radio and television with Mr. Raymond Firestone. Late that evening we boarded a train for Schenectady, New York. While we were at Schenectady we enjoyed seeing many of the General Electric Factories and Experimental Laboratories. We enjoyed being with Mr. Chester Lang at which time we expressed our appreciation to him for serving as Chairman of the Sponsoring Committee of the Future Farmers of America Foundation. February 11 found us in Pittsburgh where we visited Westinghouse Electric Corporation, U. S. Steel Corporation, and Aluminum Company of America. The next stop on our tour was at Akron, Ohio, where we visited the B. F. Goodrich Company and the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company. Next morning we arrived in Detroit where we spent the day visiting Dearborn Motors and the Ford Motor Corporation. On February 16, we visited the Dodge Division of Chrysler Motors Corporation. We



called on General Motors Corporation and the remainder of the evening was spent with Harry Ferguson, Inc. In Chicago we visited on February 17 the International Harvester Company, Armour and Company and Swift and Company. February 18 we visited International Minerals and Chemical Corporation, Oliver Corporation, American Farm Bureau, and the Sears-Roebuck and Company. On February 19 we had planned to visit Kraft Foods Company but were unable to do so because of the death of Mr. J. L. Kraft. However, on February 19, we visited the Quaker Oats Company and the Standard Oil Company of Indiana. From Chicago we moved on to Racine where we visited the Massey-Harris Company and the J. I. Case Company. On February 21 Mr. Farrar and I left for Chicago, where I appeared on The National Farm and Home Hour. Upon returning to Milwaukee we joined the other national officers to visit the Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company and the A. O. Smith Corporation. The next day of our tour was certainly a great climax for all of the officers when we were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Roberts, President of Allis-Chalmers, for a lovely evening and dinner in their home. I cannot express in words how much we enjoyed the two and a half weeks that we spent on the tour. I would like to express our deep appreciation to all those who made it possible. I now realize how closely Agriculture and Industry are united. Undoubtedly we can always depend on the Industry of America to give much needed support and encouragement to our great organization.

On returning home again I was kept busy attending various meetings and trying to catch up on my farm work. On March 25, I boarded a plane for the west coast and this was the beginning of a trip to Hawaii. While en route to the west coast I stopped over at Salt Lake City and attended the Utah State FFA Convention. This was the first State convention I attended after I became President, and I can truly say that Lowell Roberts and the Future Farmers in Utah had a great convention. Also, while I was there I enjoyed very much being with Donald Staheli, Past National President, and Eugene Hansen, Past National Student Secretary. From there I flew to San Francisco, then to Honolulu. The next three weeks were three of the most wonderful weeks I have ever spent in my life. I attended their most excellently conducted convention. While I was there I visited 24 of their 25 chapters and visited each of the Islands. To Mr. Ferdun, Territorial Advisor; Mr. Horai, Assistant Advisor; Mr. Kono, District Supervisor, and all the Agriculture Teachers and Future Farmers in Hawaii, words cannot express the pleasure I had on this visit, and all I can say is thanks a million for the wonderful Hawaiian hospitality. April 18, I boarded a plane for San Francisco and arrived there the following morning. The next three days were very busy ones for me, and I can't remember stopping any six hours while I was there. They were truly busy days but ones that I enjoyed very much. During those three days I met Governor Warren, was introduced before

the California House of Representatives, addressed the Senate and addressed and visited many Future Farmers. On April 22, I found myself aboard a plane on my way to the Oklahoma Convention at Stillwater. This proved to be a very good convention and was well conducted by their State President, Thurman Morse. On April 25, I returned to my home state after being gone a month. During the next few weeks I had an opportunity to rest a little and help my dad with our crops. Much of this time was spent travelling around over the State and in the adjoining States of Arkansas and Texas making radio and TV broadcasts, addressing groups of all kinds and attending Father and Son Banquets. On May 13, I met Mr. A. D. Walker, Executive Secretary of the Louisiana Association of FFA, at which time we drove out to Childress, Texas, to attend the Mill-Iron Hereford Bull Sale. The remainder of May I spent speaking to different groups in my home State and appearing on radio and TV shows.

On June 3, I caught a plane at Monroe, Louisiana for the Alabama Convention which was held at Auburn. There I saw a well conducted and planned convention and enjoyed being with Winfred Davis, State President, and his fellow officers. From there I went to the Mississippi State Convention at Starkville, Mississippi. Mahlon Taylor, State President, conducted their convention in a very efficient manner and I had the privilege of being with Merrill Cartwright, Past National Officer. During the week of June 16-20, I attended my home State convention held at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. There I appeared on a TV show with Joe Powell, State President, and his fellow officers, celebrating our silver anniversary. On July 16, I flew to West Virginia to attend my last State Convention of the year. There I appeared on a program with the Governor of West Virginia, again celebrating our silver anniversary. Donald Cook, State President and his fellow officers did an excellent job. While in West Virginia, I had the privilege of being with several past national officers. After the convention I enjoyed a trip to the site of their Future Million Dollar FFA and FHA Camp. Late in July I joined the other national officers for a Board of Student Officers' Meeting and Joint Board of Directors' meeting in Washington, D. C. Most of the time was spent reviewing American Farmer Applications and planning for our Silver Anniversary Convention. Also, while we were there we enjoyed a luncheon given by Senator Thy of Minnesota. Mr. Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Agriculture, Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, and Senators from each of our States attended the luncheon also. Bill Sorem and I extended President Eisenhower a formal invitation to our Silver Anniversary Convention. While we were there we visited Postmaster General Summerfield and expressed our appreciation for the special FFA stamp which we are getting. On my trip home I enjoyed very much a visit with Jimmy Willis at his home. In early August I attended the meetings of the American Institute of Cooperation in Columbia, Missouri. I was

privileged to serve on the program as Co-Chairman for the youth sessions. I returned home on August 14, and have been kept very busy since then with my farm work, FFA tours through my home state, and speaking engagements.

Although this is no detailed account of the wonderful experiences I've had, perhaps it does give some idea of the responsibilities of a national president. To all of you Future Farmers and Chapter Advisors that have made this such a wonderful year for me all I can say is thanks. To Dr. Tenney, Dr. Spanton, Mr. Farrar, and all the staff of the Agricultural Education Branch goes thanks for the wonderful counsel and guidance given me during the past year. To Mr. A. Delmar Walker, Executive Secretary of the Louisiana Association of FFA, I cannot express how much I appreciate the many things done for me in the last four years. To Mr. Carl Long, my chapter advisor, goes my thanks for the wonderful advice given to me in my FFA work. My heartfelt thanks go to Jimmy, Bill, Malcolm, Don and Fred for the wonderful help they have given me this year to make it the most wonderful year of my life. I shall always cherish the fond memories of experiences that we have had together. To mother and daddy I can only say I deeply appreciate everything that you have done for me, my brother and my sister. To my brother and sister goes many thanks.

The following is a summary of my activities during the last year:

Days spent in interest of FFA.....	246
State conventions attended.....	8
Speeches made .....	214
Radio and television broadcasts.....	48
Expenses to FFA (approx.) .....	\$1,900.00

I can find no more appropriate words with which to close than those found in our closing ceremony. "As we mingle with others, let us be diligent in labor, just in our dealings, courteous to everyone, and, above all, honest and fair in the game of life." Good luck and may God bless all of you.

Respectfully submitted,

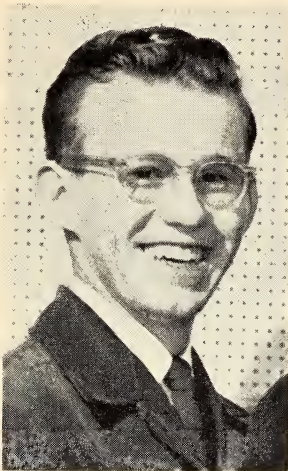
JIMMY DILLON

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### **Report of Central Regional Vice President**

Last year when Don Staheli called me up to the platform after the nominating committee presented their report, I found it very hard to realize that I was actually living a dream that seemed completely out of my reach. I remember when I attended my first





BILL SOREM  
*Central Vice President*

national convention in 1950, I thought how wonderful it would be to be a national officer, but little did I realize that it could or would actually come true. The illusion of my dream has never been shattered, for I have found the past year to be even more inspiring and gratifying than I imagined it could be.

In the weeks remaining of my fall quarter at the University of Minnesota, I had the opportunity to attend FFA chapter banquets and other civic affairs. At the end of fall quarter, I went home to help with the farm work and to prepare for the weeks ahead.

After a series of appearances, I left Minneapolis on January 27, for Washington, D. C. and the mid-winter meeting of the Board of Student Officers. On February 5, we left Washington for our annual

Good-Will Tour which lasted until February 22.

The next few weeks I was very busy attending chapter banquets and other meetings. These appearances included speaking to the Minnesota Legislature and at the State Convention of the Minnesota Future Homemakers.

March 10 and 11 found me in Chicago attending the Central Regional Conference of Vocational Agriculture Supervisors and Teacher Trainers. This conference gave me a much better understanding of the procedures and problems of the men who give us, as Future Farmers, the vast amounts of invaluable assistance.

On March 25, I flew to East Lansing, Michigan, where I spent a very enjoyable three days with the Michigan Future Farmers at their State Convention. State President, Dave Boyne, and his fellow officers conducted their convention in a very admirable fashion, which served as an inspiring start of my State convention visits.

I re-enrolled at the University of Minnesota for the spring quarter classes. On April 2, 3 and 4, I attended the Indiana Convention at West Lafayette. While there, I renewed acquaintance with Gene Penn, Bob Dull and several others.

After several weeks of classes and meetings, I flew to Des Moines on April 16, for the Iowa State Convention. I took part in a very fine convention which was well conducted by Leonard Sandor and his fellow officers.

From Des Moines, I rode to Brookings, South Dakota with Mr. Andrews of the FFA Supply Service. The next three days, I spent at the convention of the South Dakota Future Farmers. I renewed many acquaintances while there, and I left with a very good impression of the Future Farmers from the Jack Rabbit State.

My next convention was my home State convention at St. Paul on May 3, 4 and 5. I was very proud of the Minnesota Future Farmers and their very fine convention.

On June 3, I left for Kearney, Nebraska and the Nebraska Convention. Bob Geisler, John Olson and the other officers carried on a very admirable convention.

June 5 found me in Denver on my way to the Colorado Convention. After spending Saturday with Mr. Bunker and his family, I went on to Fort Morgan where the Colorado Future Farmers had a very inspiring convention. I had a chance to renew acquaintance with Bob Dorsey and Lee Carlson and also made many new friends.

On June 17, 18 and 19, I attended my final convention at Fargo, North Dakota. Floyd Askim and his fellow officers did a very fine job.

July 26 through August 1, was spent in Washington, D. C. at the meeting of the Board of Directors and Board of Student Officers.

August 9 through 12 found me at the American Institute of Cooperation at Columbia, Missouri, where I presided over the Central Regional Public Speaking Contest. I crossed paths with Jimmy Dillon again, and had a chance to be with the State officers from 13 States.

On October 6 and 7, I attended the National Dairy Cattle Congress at Waterloo, Iowa. I had the privilege of acting as toast-master at the FFA awards banquet.

I left Waterloo on October 7, to come to Kansas City to begin work on the Silver Anniversary Convention.

I have one more trip and that will be to the National Safety Conference in Chicago on October 20 to 22. This conference will mark the end of a year full of unforgettable and priceless experiences.

The summary of my activities is as follows:

Days spent in interest of FFA.....	135
Speeches made .....	106
State Conventions attended.....	8
Radio and Television Broadcasts.....	17
Total expenses to FFA (approx.).....	\$1,075.00

I find it extremely difficult at this time to express the thoughts in my mind, as I find the year closing on me.

I shall always treasure the memories of the time that I spent working with Don, Fred, Jimmy, Mac, and Jimmy. They are "tops" in my book, and I hope that our goodbyes after this convention will only be temporary.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to Dr. Tenney, Dr. Spanton and all the members of their staff for their incessant efforts in behalf of the FFA.

I owe a great deal to Mr. Cochran, my State advisor, Mr. Kortessmaki, my State executive secretary, and to Mr. Rueben

Hovland, my chapter advisor. Seven years ago, Mr. Hovland started me on the first of my meaningful experience in agriculture and has been my guiding hand in agriculture in the years since.

Thanks a lot, Mom and Dad for sacrificing all that you have and for helping me over the rough spots. Without them, my grandparents, and my younger brothers, I would have found it difficult indeed to use my time as I have.

Even though this marks the end of my career in the FFA, my thoughts and hopes will be with you always. I hope someday when I am living on my own farm that my son will be able to receive as much from the FFA as I have.

The organization is yours. I know that you will take good care of it.

Respectfully submitted,

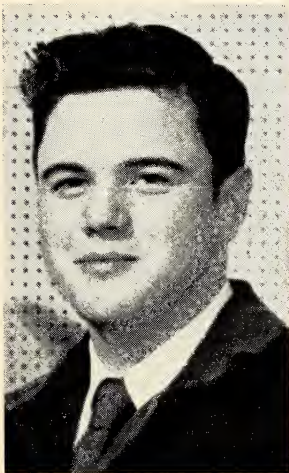
BILL SOREM

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### **Report of North Atlantic Regional Vice President**

The most enjoyable days of my life have been those that I have spent in the interest of the FFA in the past year.

When I was a Green Hand, the American Farmer Degree was to me a coveted honor. It seemed to be out of my reach, but as I came up the stepping stones of the FFA, the American Farmer Degree kept coming closer. At last I was awarded the degree and elected to this office. Serving you in this capacity has climaxed my seven years as a member of the FFA.



MALCOLM ELLIS  
*North Atlantic  
Vice President*

After returning from the National Convention, I completed the fall semester at the University of Maine and then dropped out of college to give my full time to the FFA and my farming.

My official duties started when I reported to the National Office on January 27. After spending a week in Washington, the National Officers left on a three-week Good-Will Tour. I found this very educational as well as enjoyable.

After returning home, I spoke at several civic clubs, FFA chapters and District meetings within the State.

The first State convention I attended was Rhode Island, which was held at Providence. The convention was small but well handled. That night I drove to Amherst, Massachusetts to attend the last day



of their convention on the 28th. There I witnessed a well conducted business session.

April 8 and 9, I attended the North Atlantic Regional Conference at New York, New York.

May 7-9 I took time off from planting potatoes at home to attend the New York State Convention. It was a large and well run convention.

On June 9-11 I attended the Pennsylvania State Convention at State College. It was a very successful convention.

On June 17-18, I attended my home State convention. It was one of Maine's best conventions.

On June 26-27 I attended the efficient New Jersey State Convention.

On July 27-August 1, I joined the National Officers and Board of Directors in Washington.

My last State convention for the year was in Vermont on August 19-21, where I witnessed a very outstanding convention.

On September 24, I attended the Eastern States Exposition and acted as chairman of the North Atlantic Regional Public Speaking Contest.

The following is a summary of my activities:

Days spent in interest of FFA.....	109
Speeches made .....	81
Radio Broadcasts .....	9
State conventions attended.....	7
Total expenses to FFA (approx.).....	\$1,150.00

My sincere thanks go to Dr. Spanton, Dr. Tenney and the national staff; to Mr. John Snell, my State Advisor; Professor Wallace Elliott, my State Executive Secretary; my fellow officers; and Mr. Robert Johnston, my local advisor. Without their advice and encouragement, my goal could not have been reached. Most of all I wish to thank Mom and Dad for their help, encouragement and great understanding.

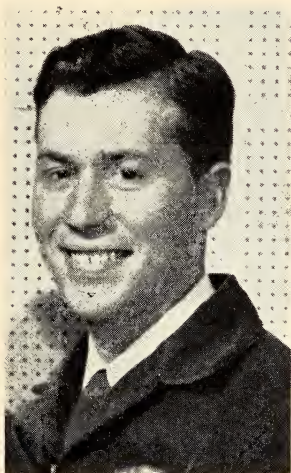
To you, Future Farmers of America, goes my deepest thanks for making it all possible. May God bless each of you and our organization—The Future Farmers of America.

Respectfully submitted,

MALCOLM ELLIS

## Report of the Pacific Regional Vice President

My election to the office of National Vice President of Future Farmers of America was, indeed, a most pleasant surprise, for it meant that I would have one more glorious year to enjoy and participate in FFA's many marvelous activities.



DONALD R. TRAVIS  
*Pacific Vice President*

Following the 1952 convention, I returned home and resumed my farming activities. During the three months following the convention and before the state conventions began, I frequently toured the state, speaking at various civic clubs and at Farm Bureau meetings.

The first official meeting with my fellow officers began in Washington, D. C. in January. In Washington I attended the January Board meeting and following that, we went on the Good-Will Tour, of which you have been told.

The State convention first on my program was in Oregon. Under the capable leadership of Lynnwood Lunquest, President, the convention went smoothly and was very much enjoyed. Following the Oregon convention I returned home, but was delayed considerably by a snow storm in the Sierras.

My next stop was Idaho, where I witnessed an excellent public speaking contest. I made many valued acquaintances at this convention. As some of the States had their conventions scheduled at the same time, I had to leave Idaho to attend the meeting at Casper, Wyoming. On my way to Casper I had a two hour layover in Salt Lake City, Utah, so I dropped in for the beginning of their convention.

In Wyoming the boys under President Bob Gietz's direction put on an inspiring convention. While there, I had the pleasure of serving as Master of Ceremonies for their public speaking contest.

I then travelled to Pullman, Washington where my stay was again cut short by conflicting convention dates. The time I spent in Washington, however, was inspiring and I would have liked to attend the entire convention.

Bozeman, Montana, was next on my agenda. The boys put on a fine convention and I was extremely impressed by their State FFA Band.

Returning from Montana I landed back at my home state convention which was under the direction of Dennis de Braga, President. One of the main events on Nevada's schedule was a small

rodeo. Because of being gracefully dislodged from my seat on a steer, I will not easily forget that convention.

From Nevada I journeyed to the California convention held at San Luis Obispo. While I was there, we went on an interesting tour of the California Polytechnical College.

I flew directly from California to the Regional Conference in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Here I gave a brief report of my activities and had an excellent time visiting my acquaintances from the various States. This was to be my last trip for a time so I returned home and spent the next month and a half harvesting first crop alfalfa.

The next official trip was to the July board meeting in Washington, D. C. I flew directly from the board meeting to the convention in New Mexico. I had met the New Mexico Advisor, L. C. Dalton, at the Board meeting in Washington; therefore I felt quite at home.

My last convention was in Arizona and was under the supervision of President Henry Evans. The Arizona group had a fine band and chorus.

The following is a summary of my activities as a National officer:

Days spent in interest of FFA.....	85
Speeches made .....	92
Radio broadcasts .....	17
State conventions attended.....	9
Expenses to FFA (approx.) .....	\$2,310.00

My sincere thanks go to the staffs of our National organization and to that of my own State organization.

To my fellow officers, I shall always cherish the memory of the fellowship which we have experienced this past year.

To Mr. L. C. Schank, my chapter advisor, who has worked with me in every way to make my career as a Future Farmer the one that it has been, I shall ever be indebted.

To my mother and father, who so willingly took over my duties on the farm while I had to be away and who gave me encouragement and help when I needed it in order to carry out my duties, I owe more than can ever be paid. My thanks also go to Robert Minner, my nephew, who did more than his share of my work.

And now I shall say, may God bless our organization and may His guiding hand continue to rest over the Future Farmers of America.

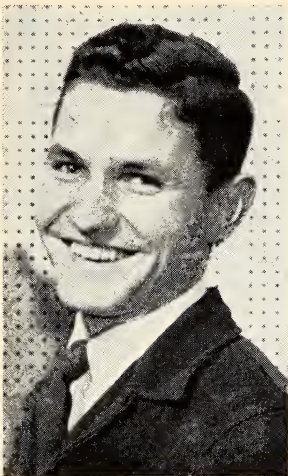
Respectfully submitted,

DONALD R. TRAVIS



## Report of Southern Regional Vice President

Serving as the National Vice President of the FFA during our Silver Anniversary year has proved to be a most profitable experience. Since last October I have had an opportunity to make new acquaintances among other Future Farmers, adults in the field of Vocational Agriculture, and the many friends of our organization.



FRED REED, JR.  
*Southern Vice President*

While completing the 1952 Fall semester at the University of Arkansas, I had the honor of representing the FFA at the National Grange Convention in Rockford, Illinois, November 13-16. There I participated with other youth organization representatives on two panel discussions and met National Master Herschel Newsom and other fellow Grangers; I was initiated as a Seventh Degree member of the Grange.

On January 27, I left Arkansas and flew to Washington, D. C. for our first joint meeting with the Board of Directors. It was also our opportunity to visit the headquarters of the National FUTURE FARMER and the FFA Supply Service before beginning the annual Good-Will Tour.

Upon my return home, March 1, I visited Arkansas Chapters, attended the Arkansas Future Homemakers Convention and the Northwest District FFA-FHA Meet at Arkansas Tech. I spoke at the FFA-FHA Father-Son-Mother-Daughter Banquet at Huntsville, my home chapter, just before travelling to the Missouri Convention at Columbia, April 24 and 25. There I observed a particularly alert nominating committee and heard Missouri's first FFA Band and Chorus.

On April 27 and 28, I visited the Kansas Convention at Manhattan but left early in order to attend the Southern Regional Conference on Agricultural Education at Asheville, North Carolina, that same week.

From Asheville, I travelled to Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin, where I visited the home of Kenyon Giese, State President, before driving to Green Lake for the Wisconsin FFA Convention. The Wisconsin officers conducted an outstanding program and were a swell team of fellows.

In June I attended five more conventions; the first was in Ohio where those Future Farmers certainly emphasized the Silver Anniversary of FFA. Their banquet, past officers' reunion, and an FFA historical movie program helped add to an already splendid convention. When the convention adjourned, Dick Leuthold, retiring

President, drove me to his home at Bucyrus where I enjoyed a swell weekend.

At the Illinois State convention, on the University of Illinois campus, I worked with the largest state officer group in our organization, headed by President Harlan Rigney. I saw a commendable Silver Anniversary Pageant and a fast moving parliamentary procedure contest. From Urbana, I travelled to Louisville for the Kentucky convention and enjoyed a swell program. I left the Kentucky Future Farmers before their convention was over, in order to attend the Virginia Association meeting. In addition to seeing a good program there, I met several men who were influential in the founding of the FFA.

On June 21, I travelled to the Arkansas FFA Convention and saw Billy Jennings preside over an outstanding convention. It was real good to be with our Association again—to hear the Public Speaking, Parliamentary Procedure, and Talent contests, and to see our delegates work so well in their committee responsibility.

Upon returning home, I worked on the farm until July 20, when I left for Fort Worth and the Texas Future Farmers Convention. That was a most effective convention program conducted by President Joe Dan Boyd and his nine fellow officers. Business sessions were especially interesting as the delegates were eager to participate in each discussion.

From Fort Worth, I flew to Washington, D. C. for the second joint meeting of the Board of Student Officers and Board of Directors. Our meeting was adjourned on July 31 and I returned home to finish the summer on the farm.

The Fall semester at the University of Arkansas began on September 17 and I re-enrolled as a junior in the college of Agriculture. During the second week, I was allowed a nice diversion from school, however, when I represented the national organization at the Oklahoma FFA Silver Anniversary Reunion at the Oklahoma State Fair, September 29. Some 15,000 Future Farmers, FFA alumni, and honorary members were present; the program was an interesting one and FFA Day proved to be quite a success.

Following is a summary of my activities as a national officer:

Days spent in behalf of FFA.....	107
State conventions attended.....	9
Regional Conference—Agri. Educa.....	1
Speeches made .....	33
Radio and TV broadcasts.....	13
Total expense to the FFA (approx.).....	\$1,225.00

It has been an inspiration to associate so closely this year with Dr. Tenney, Dr. Spanton, Mr. Farrar, and the rest of the FFA staff; I should like to thank them for assisting me in all my duties as a national officer.

Contributing largely to my efforts toward being a national officer was Mr. S. D. Mitchell, former Executive Secretary of the

Arkansas FFA; this past year State Advisor George Sullards and Executive Secretary Frank Johnston have assisted me.

My seven years' association with Mr. Arthur Johnson, my Vo-Ag instructor, has been the key to my success as a Future Farmer. His contribution to my FFA career is immeasurable.

Mom and Dad have shared with me the joy of serving as a national FFA officer; I humbly thank them for their guidance.

In the years ahead, there lies a great future for our organization—may God bless the Future Farmers of America as they continue "living to serve".

Respectfully submitted,

FRED REED

### **Report of National Student Secretary**

Fellow Future Farmers, I shall never forget this year, the most wonderful of my life. Since you elected me last October to serve as your National Student Secretary, I have endeavored to serve you to the best of my ability. When I attended my first National Con-

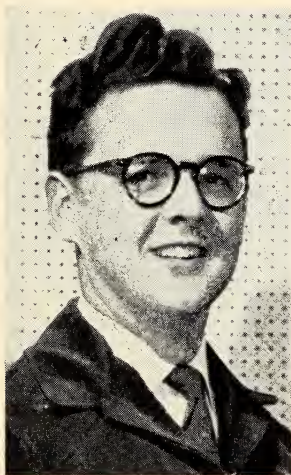
vention, I received my greatest inspiration—inspiration to be of service to the Future Farmers of America, to do my part of that inspiring task. I could never tell in words what the Future Farmers of America organization has meant to me during my seven years of active membership. There has been much work, but it has all been most enjoyable.

Upon returning home from the 1952 Convention, I attended the State Fair joint meeting of the South Carolina FHA and FFA in Columbia, October 23. There were approximately 12,000 in attendance at this meeting.

On October 27, I returned to Clemson College, where I was a Junior to get my discharge so that I could devote my time to our organization. After which, I returned home.

Until December 10 and 11, when I attended the South Carolina Young Farmers State Convention, I visited several local chapters and spoke to many Civic Clubs. This procedure I followed every time I was home for a few days. During this time I also helped Daddy with the work on our home farm.

On January 27th, I left for Washington, D. C. where I met my fellow officers for our officer training school and we began our Good-Will Tour.



JIMMY WILLIS  
*Student Secretary*



On April 22, I left for Nashville, Tennessee to attend my first State Convention. Alvin Banner and his fellow officers had a fine convention. It was the largest I attended.

June 13 found me on my way to Daytona Beach, Florida to attend their convention. This convention will long remain in my memory as an excellent convention. Jackson Brownles, as well as each of his fellow officers, is to be commended.

Upon returning home on June 20, I left for College Park, Maryland on June 22 to attend the Maryland Convention June 23-24. Richard Pry and the other State Officers ran their convention with the utmost of perfection. I had to leave at noon on the 24th for the North Carolina Convention, which was held in Raleigh, North Carolina, June 24-26. Here Harold Lineberger and his fellow State Officers had a wonderful convention.

On July 14, my father and I left for Clemson, South Carolina to attend my home State convention, July 14-17. Here Emmett McCracken, as well as each of the other State officers, did an excellent job. This convention will always remain in my long line of FFA memories.

The week of July 26th was spent in Washington, D. C. with our second meeting of the Board of Student Officers and Board of Directors. I was very glad that Jimmy Dillon was able to come by on his way home and spend a couple of days with me.

August 10-13, was spent at the Georgia State FFA camp, attending their State Convention with their State President, James Moore, and all of his fellow officers. This convention was very enjoyable. I returned home from this my last convention on August 14.

I returned to Clemson College on September 10, where I re-enrolled as a junior majoring in Vocational Agricultural Education. October 5 I arrived here in Kansas City for our National Convention.

The following is a brief summary of my activities:

Days spent in interest of FFA.....	106
Speeches made .....	87
State conventions attended.....	6
Radio programs .....	14
Total expenses (approx.).....	\$ 885.00

My most sincere thanks go to each and every Future Farmer for making this past year possible for me.

To Staffs of our National Organization and my State Association, I wish to say thank you very much. To my agriculture teacher, Mr. George McKenzie, who worked so hard to help me along the way, go my humble thanks.

To my brother officers, Jimmy, Don, Mac, Bill and Fred, it has been wonderful working with you.

To my mother and father and my brother, Harry, and sister, Rachel, who have sacrificed so much to make this year possible for me, words can't express my feelings. However, I do wish to give to you my deepest and most sincere gratitude and thanks.

To the National Organization of the Future Farmers of America, may God always be with it and keep it forever within His sight.

Respectfully submitted,

JIMMY WILLIS



Wimauma, Florida, String Band

# Report of National Executive Secretary

## A. W. Tenney

We are celebrating the Silver Anniversary of the Future Farmers of America. Our convention will feature some outstanding achievements made by the organization since it was founded in 1928. It is appropriate for us to pause at this quarter century milestone and look back over the past twenty-five years. We recognize that the progress made has been due to the work done by members of the FFA, teachers of vocational agriculture, State staffs in agricultural education and members of the staff of the Agricultural Education Branch of the Office of Education. We are likewise indebted for the assistance that has been given to the FFA by individuals, our many friends in other organizations, and from the field of business and industry.

We have a just right to take pride in the outstanding achievements of the past, but let us not forget to look forward. The organization continues to grow in membership and achievements. We are all expecting greater things of the Future Farmers of America in the next twenty-five years.

We now have the largest membership in the history of our organization. The following report on accomplishments of the Future Farmers of America is for the year ended June 30, 1953:

### Report on Accomplishments

Activity	Goal	Accomplishment
<b>I. SUPERVISED FARMING</b>		
1. Producing food for world demands	100% member participation	91%
2. Increasing size of farming programs	100% member participation	55%
3. Improving livestock and crop production	100% member participation	60%
4. Preventing livestock losses	100% chapter participation	50%
		71%
<b>II. COOPERATION</b>		
1. Providing experience in cooperative effort	100% member participation	72%
<b>III. COMMUNITY SERVICE</b>		
1. Stress repairing and reconditioning of machinery	100% member and chapter participation	43% members 80% chapters
2. Guarding and protecting life and property	100% of State Associations with safety program	86%
3. Conserving resources	100% of chapters and members participating	50% members 72% chapters
4. Repairing farm buildings and equipment	100% member participation	47%



Activity	Goal	Accomplishment
<b>IV. LEADERSHIP</b>		
1. Advancing members to higher degrees	100% of States naming full quota of qualified American farmer applicants	80%
2. Providing chapter libraries	100% of chapters with libraries which include 5 or more FFA books	84%
3. Participating in public speaking	100% of Chapters and States hold public speaking contests	100% States 50% chapters
4. Following parliamentary procedure	100% of chapters conducting meetings according to accepted parliamentary procedure	93%
5. Building programs of work	100% of States and chapters with written continuing program of work giving special emphasis to reconversion	100% States 87% chapters
6. Providing State publications	100% of States with an official publication	86%
7. Providing leadership training	100% State participation	90%
8. Maintaining public relations	Keep the public informed on what the FFA is and does	34% chapters issued news sheets or news letters 67% chapters prepared publicity material regularly 58% States sponsored radio series 37% chapters prepared and gave broadcasts
<b>V. EARNINGS AND SAVINGS</b>		
1. Practicing thrift	100% of chapters and members participating	37% members 62% chapters
<b>VI. CONDUCT OF MEETINGS</b>		
1. Using Official Manual	100% of members having access to Official Manual	88%
2. Using Official Secretary and Treasurer books	100% of members using both books	84% secretary's 79% treasurer's
3. Providing Official meeting paraphernalia, equipment and supplies	100% of chapters and State associations having standard materials with which to work	94% States 83% chapters
4. Using Official ceremonies	100% of chapters using opening and closing and degree ceremonies according to the Official Manual	92%
5. Planning State Conventions	100% of State associations hold conventions	100%
6. Meetings	Every member attend 100% of chapter meetings	90% chapters held regular meetings 52% members attended

Activity	Goal	Accomplishment
<b>VII. SCHOLARSHIP</b>		
1. Improving scholarship	100% of members show outstanding ability as evidenced by scholastic activities, and have a satisfactory record as certified to by the local school superintendent or principal	83% chapters helped members improve their scholarship
<b>VIII. RECREATION</b>		
1. Encourage supervised recreation	100% member participation	67%
2. Continuing National FFA Week	100% of State associations participating	98%
<b>IX. GENERAL</b>		
1. Maintaining membership	370,000 active members	363,369 members

## OFFICER TRAVEL

Each year we are pleased with the service rendered to the organization by your student officers. As we review their achievements, let us not forget that all of these young men are actively engaged in farming. You will hear reports from each of them during the convention. I believe you will be pleased and surprised to see the scope of their achievements and the amount of time they have devoted to your organization.

## STATE CONVENTIONS

Reports from State associations indicate that all associations held State conventions. We were pleased that the National FFA Officers attended 47 of these conventions. Their reports indicate large attendance and stimulating activities at these conventions.

## LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Forty-five State associations held special leadership schools for local chapters and members. More than 40,890 members attended the leadership schools. Since one of the objectives of our organization is to provide training in leadership, let us strive in the years ahead to improve on the good work that is being done.

## CAMP AND OLD MILL

The facilities at the National FFA Camp are being used by the staff of the Future Farmers Supply Service and by the staff of *The National FUTURE FARMER*. Since the Potomac Park Motor Court in Washington, D. C. has facilities to accommodate FFA chapters, the national camp was not open during the past summer.

The George Washington Grist Mill, which is leased from the Virginia Conservation Commission, is still being kept open to the

public. A caretaker is kept on duty. The income from the mill is enough to pay for all of the expenses, maintenance, and the salary of the caretaker.

Sixteen Associations operated camps for members during the summer. A number of other State associations are continuing to develop State camps.

NATIONAL CHAPTER CONTEST

We received 97 reports on accomplishments in the National Chapter Contest for the past year. We are pleased with the continual improvement in the quality of work being done by FFA chapters. The annual increase in the number of Gold Emblem awards is adequate proof of their accomplishments. The accomplishment reports of the Gold Emblem chapters are on exhibit in the Little Theater. You are invited to review these outstanding reports.

PRIZES AND AWARDS

Members of the FFA are indebted to the Future Farmers of America Foundation and to its donors for the awards which have been given by the Foundation. I am pleased to advise that through the efforts of the Foundation Sponsoring Committee, the Foundation has received a large number of new donations. Later this week we will be honored to have with us, as platform guests, representatives of the Foundation Donors.

FUTURE FARMERS SUPPLY SERVICE

The Future Farmers Supply Service has continued to grow during the past year. A number of new items have been added at the request of State Associations and by authorization of the Board of Student Officers. A complete report on the Supply Service will be presented to you later this week.

THE NATIONAL FUTURE FARMER

We are pleased that, at last, the NATIONAL FUTURE FARMER, the official magazine for the Future Farmers of America, has become a reality. Members have requested a magazine since our organization was started in 1928, and this goal has been attained. The editor of the magazine will give you a complete progress report on the magazine during the convention.

SUMMARY

The summary of work done by various State Associations for the year ended June 30, 1953, based on information obtained from their annual reports is as follows:

A. ORGANIZATION

Total number chartered local chapters.....	8,569
Total number white departments of vocational agri- culture without FFA chapters.....	125
Total active membership in chartered chapters.....	363,369



## B. MEMBERSHIP DISTRIBUTION AND STATUS

Total number of active members now holding Green Hand Degree .....	106,577
Total number of active members now holding Chapter Farmer Degree .....	190,856
Total number of active members now holding State Farmer Degree .....	9,180
Total number of active members now holding American Farmer Degree.....	578
Total active membership.....	363,369
Total number of associate members (local) .....	249,809
Total number of honorary members (local) .....	43,742
Total number of honorary members (State) .....	4,859
Grand Total membership.....	661,779

## I. SUPERVISED FARMING

Number of members who participated in production of food .....	294,312
Number of members who increased the size of their farming programs .....	199,886
Number of members who used improved livestock practices .....	217,195
Number of members who used improved crop production practices .....	186,352
Number of chapters engaging in organized livestock loss prevention work.....	6,053

## II. COOPERATION

Number of chapters cooperating with other groups....	7,680
Number of members provided experience in cooperative effort .....	262,517

## III. COMMUNITY SERVICE

Number of members who repaired and/or reconditioned farm machinery.....	156,787
Number of chapters that repaired and/or reconditioned farm machinery.....	7,257
Number of State Associations having a safety program in operation.....	43
Number of members engaged in organized conservation work .....	183,122
Number of chapters engaging in organized conservation work .....	6,378
Number of members who repaired farm buildings and/or equipment .....	172,335

## IV. LEADERSHIP

Number of State Associations that nominated full quota of American Farmers.....	40
Number of chapters having libraries with 5 or more FFA books .....	7,205

Number of State Associations that held a public speaking contest .....	50
Number of chapters holding a public speaking contest .....	4,356
Number of chapters using accepted form of parliamentary procedure in conducting chapter meetings....	7,962
Number of State Associations having a written continuing program of work.....	50
Number of chapters having a definite continuing written program of work.....	7,493
Number of State Associations putting out a State paper, periodical, or news sheet regularly.....	43
Number of chapters issuing news sheets or news letters .....	2,940
Number of chapters preparing publicity material regularly .....	5,721
Number of State Associations providing leadership training schools or conferences for local chapter officers and members.....	45
Number of chapters participating in leadership training schools or conferences.....	5,413
Number of State Associations sponsoring radio broadcast series .....	29
Number of chapters that have prepared and given one or more radio programs.....	3,238
Number of Association members attending last National FFA Convention.....	11,111

## V. EARNINGS AND SAVINGS

Number of members carrying out definite thrift practices .....	132,615
Number of chapters participating in thrift practices .....	5,351

## VI. CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

Number of members who have access to the Official Manual .....	356,556
Number of chapters using official chapter secretary's book .....	7,191
Number of chapters using official chapter treasurer's book .....	6,789
Number of chapters possessing full meeting equipment as listed in the Manual.....	7,120
Number of State Associations possessing full meeting equipment as listed in the Manual.....	47
Number of chapters using the official opening and closing, and degree ceremonies for regular meetings .....	7,902
Number of chapters holding regular meetings.....	7,815
Number of State Associations holding a convention....	50
Number of members who have attended 100% of chapter meetings .....	188,383

## VII. SCHOLARSHIP

Number of chapters that stimulated members to improve their scholarship.....	7,091
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## VIII. RECREATION

Number of chapters that provided supervised recreation .....	7,258
Number of members who participated in supervised recreation activities .....	243,489
Number of State Associations having a State camp in operation during the year.....	16
Number of members attending State camps.....	20,392
Number of chapters represented.....	1,794
Number of State Associations participating in National FFA Week.....	49

## C. INVESTMENTS IN FARMING

Total amount actually invested in farming by active members, as of January 1 of this year.....	\$91,606,485.98
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## D. COLLEGIATE CHAPTERS

Number of recognized teacher training departments operating Collegiate FFA chapters.....	31
Reported membership in Collegiate Chapters.....	1,963

## WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE

You have a just right to be proud of the fact that the FFA has again broken a number of records. Our membership as of June 30, 1953 was 363,369. We may look forward to a new record in membership during the current year. All boys who are studying vocational agriculture in high school should belong to the FFA.

We are pleased that our report this year includes the 48 States, the Island of Puerto Rico and the Territory of Hawaii.

In closing, I wish to compliment the student officers for their constructive work. It has been a pleasure to work with them. I wish to express my appreciation to the National Board of Directors, State Advisors, Executive Secretaries, and to our office force for their cooperation and assistance.



# Report of the National Treasurer

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**D. J. Howard**

July 29, 1953

The Officers and Directors,  
Future Farmers of America,  
Richmond, Virginia.

Gentlemen:

We have made an examination of the books of account and record of D. J. Howard, Treasurer, Future Farmers of America, Richmond, Virginia, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1953, and have submitted a detailed report thereon.

Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the statements herewith submitted, subject to the comments contained in our detailed report referred to above, present fairly the position of Future Farmers of America at June 30, 1953, and the results of its operations for the year, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Respectfully submitted,

**LEACH, CALKINS & SCOTT**  
Certified Public Accountants  
Richmond, Virginia

**Balance Sheet**

June 30, 1953

Exhibit "A"

**ASSETS****CURRENT ASSETS:**

Cash in bank (Exhibit "C") .....	\$ 18,763.88	
U. S. Savings Bonds, Series F:		
Maturity Value .....	\$ 50,000.00	
Less: Reserve for unearned interest..	4,140.00	45,860.00

## Loan receivable:

"The National Future Farmer":

Cash advances .....	\$ 26,786.20	
Expenses paid (contra) .....	7,713.80	34,500.00

<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS.....</b>	<b>\$ 99,123.88</b>	
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**OTHER ASSETS:**

Trademark .....	500.00
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**FIXED ASSETS:**

## National Camp:

Land .....	\$12,343.23	
Buildings .....	15,317.16	
Equipment .....	3,288.28	\$ 30,948.67

## National office:

Furniture and fixtures.....	655.06	31,603.73
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		<u><u>\$131,227.61</u></u>
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**SURPLUS****SURPLUS:**

Balance, July 1, 1952.....	\$108,632.06
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## Add:

Expenses paid for "The National  
Future Farmer" (contra):

Fiscal year ended

June 30, 1952..... \$ 2,715.65

Fiscal year ended

June 30, 1953..... 4,998.15      7,713.80

Excess of revenue over expenditures  
(Exhibit "B") .....

14,881.75

Balance, June 30, 1953.....	<u><u>\$131,227.61</u></u>
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## Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1953

REVENUE:	REVENUE		Budget Estimate	Exhibit "B"
	Detail	Total		Excess Over Estimate
Membership Dues (Schedule 1)		\$36,336.90	\$36,000.00	\$ 336.90
Royalties:				
L. G. Balfour Company.....		\$15,930.32		
The Fair Publishing House..		296.00		
The Osborne Company.....		15,603.68		
Totals—Royalties .....		31,830.00	20,000.00	11,830.00
Other Revenue:				
Old Mill.....		\$ 1,800.00		
Supply service:				
Rent .....		1,500.00		
Grant .....		7,500.00		
Interest on U. S. Sav. Bonds		1,415.00		
Miscellaneous .....		26.61		
Totals—Other Revenue ....		12,241.61	11,300.00	941.61
Total Revenue .....		<u>\$80,408.51</u>	<u>\$67,300.00</u>	<u>\$13,108.51</u>

EXPENDITURES:	EXPENDED		Appro- priations	Unexpended Balance
	Detail	Total		
Travel:				
National officers.....		\$ 9,647.04	\$ 9,000.00	\$ (647.04)
Board of directors.....		1,321.29	700.00	(621.29)
Special travel—National ad- visor, secretary and other		2,915.68	2,000.00	(915.68)
International .....		1,858.50	2,000.00	141.50
Totals—Travel .....		\$15,742.51	\$13,700.00	\$(2,042.51)
Convention:				
Delegate expense.....		\$ 4,378.71	\$ 4,200.00	\$ (178.71)
Special features.....		3,049.32	2,500.00	(549.32)
Buttons, badges, programs..		1,274.90	600.00	(674.90)
Stenotypist .....		189.25	200.00	10.75
Photographs and publicity....		401.99	200.00	(201.99)
Decorations .....		800.74	600.00	(200.74)
Equipment rental .....		99.93	200.00	100.07
Building service.....		57.00	70.00	13.00
Communications .....		87.13	75.00	(12.13)
Secretarial travel expense....		739.26	1,000.00	260.74
Awards and certificates.....		1,151.51	700.00	(451.51)
Miscellaneous .....		248.89	200.00	(48.89)
Totals—Convention .....		12,478.63	\$10,545.00	\$(1,933.63)



	EXPENDED		Appropriations	Unexpended Balance
	Detail	Total		
"American Farmer" Keys:				
Total expenditures .....		3,323.95	\$ 3,200.00	\$ (123.95)
Printing:				
Literature and proceedings..	\$ 2,734.20		\$ 3,000.00	\$ 265.80
Stationery, forms, etc.....	1,030.50		1,000.00	(30.50)
Totals—Printing .....		3,764.70	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 235.30
National Office:				
Secretarial salaries:				
Executive sec.'s office.....	\$ 3,379.49		\$ 3,400.00	\$ 20.51
National treasurer's office	1,350.00		1,350.00	
Director of Public Relations:				
Salary .....	6,323.18		6,190.13	(133.05)
Travel .....	1,136.56		1,200.00	63.44
Secretary—salary .....	3,104.41		3,175.00	70.59
Telephone and telegraph.....	665.24		300.00	(365.24)
Postage, express, etc.....	140.00		100.00	(40.00)
Bond premiums and taxes...	45.00		100.00	55.00
Supplies, equip., and rental..	518.89		600.00	81.11
Auditing .....	150.00		150.00	
Miscellaneous .....	1,047.37		500.00	(547.37)
Totals—National Office ...		17,860.14	\$17,065.13	\$ (795.01)
National Camp and Old Mill:				
Mill attendant—salary.....	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00	
Insurance .....	197.75		300.00	\$ 102.25
Maintenance .....			1,000.00	1,000.00
Totals—National Camp and Old Mill.....		\$ 1,697.75	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 1,102.25
Judging Expense.....		491.98	\$ 300.00	\$ (191.98)
Contingent:				
Employer social security.....	\$ 295.49			
Law suit costs and expenses	3,825.98			
Anniversary seals .....	255.00			
Salary—H. N. Hansucker....	792.48			
Totals—Contingent .....		5,168.95	\$15,689.87	\$10,520.92
National FFA Magazine:				
Salaries .....	\$ 3,033.40			\$ (3,033.40)
Travel .....	642.21			(642.21)
Supplies and miscellaneous..	1,012.74			(1,012.74)
Equipment (2 typewriters) ..	309.80			(309.80)
Totals—National FFA Magazine .....		4,998.15	\$ —	\$ (4,998.15) *
Total Expenditures.....		\$65,526.76	\$67,300.00	\$ 1,773.24
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES				
		\$14,881.75	\$ —	\$14,881.75

(Exh. "A")

\*Charged to "The National Future Farmer" (Exhibit "A")

**Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements**

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1953

Exhibit "C"

BALANCE, JULY 1, 1952..... \$ 32,083.33

## RECEIPTS:

Membership dues (Schedule 1) ..... \$36,336.90

Royalties (Exhibit "B") ..... 31,830.00

National Camp and Old Mill..... 1,800.00

## Supply service:

Rent ..... \$ 1,500.00

Grant ..... 7,500.00 9,000.00

Income tax withheld from employees..... 2,842.53

Employees' old-age benefits..... 294.74

Miscellaneous ..... 26.61

## Expense refunds:

Travel ..... \$ 457.31

Convention ..... 1,126.47

National office ..... 3.50

Contingent—Foundation .. 926.03 2,513.31

TOTAL RECEIPTS ..... 84,644.09

\$116,727.42

## DISBURSEMENTS:

Travel ..... \$16,199.82

Convention ..... 13,605.10

"American Farmer" keys..... 3,323.95

Printing ..... 3,764.70

National office expense..... 17,863.64

National Camp and Old Mill..... 1,697.75

Withholding tax remitted to Federal

Government ..... 2,842.53

Employee and employer social security

tax paid ..... 590.23

Judging ..... 491.98

## National FFA Magazine:

## Loans:

Expenses ..... \$ 4,998.15

Cash ..... 26,786.20 31,784.35

Law suit costs and expenses..... 3,825.98

Miscellaneous ..... 1,973.51

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS..... 97,963.54

BALANCE, JUNE 30, 1953 (Exhibit "A") ..... \$ 18,763.88

## Membership Dues Collected

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1953

Schedule 1

<u>Associations</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Associations</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Alabama .....	\$ 1,226.20	New Hampshire .....	38.70
Arizona .....	150.80	New Jersey .....	138.70
Arkansas .....	1,252.40	New Mexico .....	193.50
California .....	1,114.30	New York .....	753.00
Colorado .....	197.50	North Carolina .....	2,191.40
Connecticut .....	47.60	North Dakota .....	192.20
Delaware .....	65.10	Ohio .....	1,039.00
Florida .....	805.00	Oklahoma .....	1,452.30
Georgia .....	1,661.90	Oregon .....	360.90
Hawaii .....	133.10	Pennsylvania .....	1,058.00
Idaho .....	302.40	Puerto Rico .....	602.40
Illinois .....	1,742.10	Rhode Island .....	12.90
Indiana .....	778.10	South Carolina .....	726.00
Iowa .....	893.70	South Dakota .....	261.10
Kansas .....	704.50	Tennessee .....	1,552.10
Kentucky .....	1,111.40	Texas .....	3,632.20
Louisiana .....	918.70	Utah .....	299.00
Maine .....	112.50	Vermont .....	71.00
Maryland .....	210.80	Virginia .....	767.60
Massachusetts .....	77.40	Washington .....	583.10
Michigan .....	1,051.50	West Virginia .....	492.00
Minnesota .....	945.40	Wisconsin .....	1,393.50
Mississippi .....	983.40	Wyoming .....	122.90
Missouri .....	1,144.70		
Montana .....	226.10		
Nebraska .....	510.30		
Nevada .....	36.50		
		<b>TOTAL DUES</b>	
		<b>COLLECTED</b>	
		(Exhibits "B"	
		and "C") .....	<u><u>\$36,336.90</u></u>



## Awards and Contests

On Tuesday evening, October 13, the Star Farmer Awards were presented by the National Vice-Presidents from the respective regions, in the Main Arena of the Municipal Auditorium. The winners were as follows:

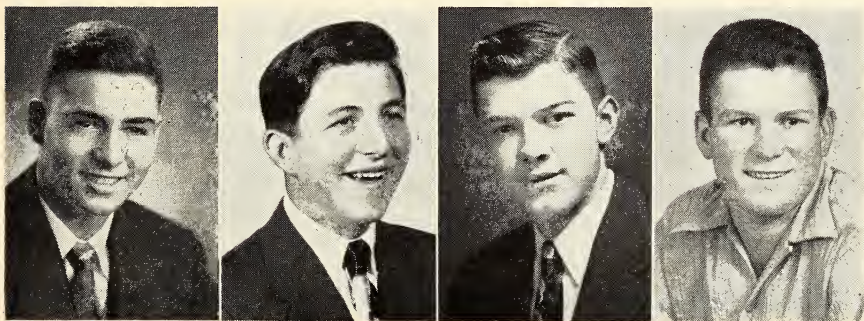
Star Farmer of America—Stanley Alton Chapman, Monroe, Washington

Star Farmer, Southern Region—Monroe Kottwitz, Kingfisher, Oklahoma

Star Farmer, Central Region—Rollin Dale Blossey, Williams-ton, Michigan

Star Farmer, North Atlantic Region—Graydon Leo Lyons, Colebrook, New Hampshire

A check for \$1,000 went to Chapman and checks for \$500 were given the other three Star Farmers named.



### WINNERS OF THE NATIONAL FARM MECHANICS AWARD

(Left to right)—David Carey, 1st Place Winner; Frank Demeter, North Atlantic Regional Winner; Jim Frerer, Central Regional Winner; Derwood Strain, Southern Regional Winner.

Other national awards were presented on Wednesday evening, October 14, in the Main Arena of the Municipal Auditorium. Farm Mechanics Award winners were given checks from the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Incorporated as follows:

1st Place—David Carey, Walla Walla, Washington.....\$250.00  
Southern Region—

Derwood Strain, Morgan City, Mississippi..... 200.00

Central Region—Jim Frerer, Jasper, Missouri..... 200.00

North Atlantic Region—

Frank Demeter, Washington, New Jersey..... 200.00



**WINNERS OF THE NATIONAL FARM ELECTRIFICATION AWARDS**  
 (Left to right)—Maurice Vonier, Nebraska, 1st Place Winner; Sterling Huston, Maine, North Atlantic Regional Winner; Donald Hobbs, California, Pacific Regional Winner; and Eugene Bowman, Virginia, Southern Regional Winner.

Farm Electrification Award winners received a check given in behalf of the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Incorporated. The winners were:

1st Place—Maurice Vonier, Jasper, Missouri.....	\$250.00
Southern Region—	
Eugene Bowman, Rocky Mount, Virginia.....	200.00
Pacific Region—Donald Hobbs, Tulare, California.....	200.00
North Atlantic Region—	
Sterling Huston, Perham, Maine.....	200.00

Dairy Farming Award winners received checks in behalf of the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Incorporated. The winners were:

1st Place—John Lee Coots, Jr., Finchville, Ky.....	\$250.00
Pacific Region—Edward L. Reiter, Huntley, Montana....	200.00
Southern Region—Joe Register, Cottdonale, Florida.....	200.00
North Atlantic Region—	
Donald Carleton, West Newbury, Vermont.....	200.00





**WINNERS OF NATIONAL DAIRY FARMING AWARDS**

(Left to right)—Edward L. Reiter, Montana, Pacific Regional Winner; John Lee Coots, Jr., Kentucky, 1st Place Winner; Donald Carleton, Vermont, North Atlantic Regional Winner; and Joe Register, Florida, Southern Regional Winner.

Soil and Water Management Award winners received checks in behalf of the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Incorporated. The winners were:

- 1st Place—Joe Coleman, Louisa, Virginia.....\$250.00
- Pacific Region—
  - Norman B. Strebin, Troutdale, Oregon..... 200.00
- Central Region—
  - Curtiss J. Bohannon, Greenville, Illinois..... 200.00
- North Atlantic Region—
  - James H. Maguire, Morrisdale, Pennsylvania..... 200.00





WINNERS OF  
THE NATIONAL SOIL AND WATER MANAGEMENT AWARDS

(Left to right)—Joe Coleman, Virginia, 1st Place Winner; Norman B. Strebin, Oregon, Pacific Regional Winner; James H. Maguire, Pennsylvania, North Atlantic Regional Winner; and Curtis J. Bohannon, Illinois, Central Regional Winner.

Farm Safety Award winners received checks in behalf of the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Incorporated. The winners were:

1st Place—Rugby Chapter, North Dakota.....	\$250.00
Pacific Region—Amphitheater Chapter, Arizona.....	200.00
Southern Region—Quincy Chapter, Florida.....	200.00
North Atlantic Region—Phelps Chapter, New York.....	200.00



REPRESENTATIVES OF  
CHAPTERS WINNING NATIONAL FARM SAFETY AWARDS

(Left to right)—Warner Johnson, Rugby, North Dakota, 1st Place Winner; William Timmons, Quincy, Florida, Southern Regional Winner; Robert Vingee, Phelps, New York, North Atlantic Regional Winner, and Ed Beaupre, Amphitheater, Arizona, Pacific Regional Winner.

## The Chapter Contest

Ninety-seven Future Farmers of America local chapters were honored at the Silver Anniversary Convention in Kansas City during the presentation of awards in the organization's National Chapter Contest.

The National FFA Chapter Contest, conducted annually by the organization, is designed to encourage and reward chapter effort, stimulate group action among members, and to encourage improvement in local chapter programs of work. Both the interest shown and the actual accomplishments over a period of years give ample evidence of the effectiveness of this event. The Chapter Contest has been a valuable aid in stimulating both individual and cooperative effort and in crystallizing chapter programs of work into a series of worthwhile undertakings.

Chapters were grouped into Gold Emblem, Silver Emblem, Bronze Emblem and Honorable Mention classifications, according to their records of accomplishment in supervised farming, cooperative activities, community service, leadership activities, earnings and savings by members, conduct of meetings, scholarship of members, recreation and other general activities.

Each chapter in the contest had been selected locally to be entered in the national competition. Emblem winners received plaques designating their award and the Honorable Mention group received certificates. The ninety-seven chapters in the national contest represent the best from the Future Farmers of America's 8,569 local chapters. The 1953 winners were:

### Gold Emblem Classification

Riverton Chapter	Quincy Chapter, Quincy, Florida
Huntsville, Alabama	Suwannee Chapter
Phoenix Technical Chapter	Live Oak, Florida
Phoenix, Arizona	Blakely-Union Chapter
Amphitheater Chapter,	Blakely, Georgia
Tucson, Arizona	Newark Chapter
Conway Chapter	Newark, Illinois
Conway, Arkansas	Pearl City Chapter
Hanford Chapter	Pearl City, Illinois
Hanford, California	Delphi Chapter, Delphi, Indiana
Brighton Chapter	Audubon Chapter
Brighton, Colorado	Audubon, Iowa
Eaton Chapter, Eaton, Colorado	Little River Chapter
Stephen Babcock Chapter	Little River, Kansas
Middletown, Delaware	Shawnee-Mission Chapter
Saddle and Grate Chapter	Merriam, Kansas
Camden-Wyoming, Delaware	



Lafayette-Bryan Station Chapter, Lexington, Kentucky	Kingfisher Chapter Kingfisher, Oklahoma
Agawam Chapter Agawam, Massachusetts	Harrisburg Chapter Harrisburg, Oregon
Cassopolis Chapter Cassopolis, Michigan	Baron DeKalb Chapter Westville, South Carolina
Jasper, Chapter Jasper, Missouri	Chester County Chapter Henderson, Tennessee
Huntley Project Chapter Worden, Montana	John Sevier Chapter Erwin, Tennessee
Flathead Chapter Kalispell, Montana	Clifton Chapter, Clifton, Texas
Kearney Chapter Kearney, Nebraska	Lamar Chapter Rosenberg, Texas
Waverly Chapter Waverly, Nebraska	Nacogdoches Chapter Nacogdoches, Texas
Newton Chapter Newton, New Jersey	Rocky Gap Chapter Rocky Gap, Virginia
Hatch Chapter Hatch, New Mexico	North River Chapter Mt. Solon, Virginia
Rugby Chapter Rugby, North Dakota	Mt. Baker Chapter Deming, Washington
Loudonville Chapter Loudonville, Ohio	Battle Ground Chapter Battle Ground, Washington
Pauls Valley Chapter Pauls Valley, Oklahoma	Ripley Chapter Ripley, West Virginia
	Troy Chapter Troy, West Virginia

## Silver Emblem Classification

Geneva Chapter Geneva, Alabama	Delhi Chapter, Delhi, Louisiana
Lakeside Chapter Hot Springs, Arkansas	Gorham Chapter Gorham, Maine
DeLand Chapter DeLand, Florida	Owosso Chapter Owosso, Michigan
John M. Ross Chapter Hakalau, Hawaii	Williamston Chapter Williamston, Michigan
Chenoa Chapter, Chenoa, Illinois	Brainerd Chapter Brainerd, Minnesota
Scenic City Chapter Iowa Falls, Iowa	Fairmont Chapter Fairmont, Minnesota
Bluewater Chapter Spencer, Iowa	Mountain Lake Chapter Mountain Lake, Minnesota
Athens Chapter Lexington, Kentucky	Branson Chapter Branson, Missouri
Slidell Chapter Slidell, Louisiana	Virgin Valley Chapter Bunkerville, Nevada

Belvidere Chapter	Woodruff Chapter
Belvidere, New Jersey	Woodruff, South Carolina
Artesia Chapter	Brownfield Chapter
Artesia, New Mexico	Brownfield, Texas
Schultz Chapter	Iraan Chapter, Iraan, Texas
Towner, North Dakota	Dayton Chapter
Bremen Chapter, Bremen, Ohio	Dayton, Virginia
McMinnville Chapter	Powell Chapter
McMinnville, Oregon	Powell, Wyoming
Greybull Chapter	
Greybull, Wyoming	

#### Bronze Emblem Classification

Montevallo Chapter	Greenville Chapter
Montevallo, Alabama	Greenville, New York
Anaheim Chapter	South Kortright Chapter
Anaheim, California	South Kortright, New York
Moultrie Chapter	Dryden Chapter
Moultrie, Georgia	Dryden, New York
Kapaa Chapter, Kapaa, Hawaii	Central Chapter
Farmersville Chapter	Fayetteville, North Carolina
Farmersville, Illinois	Hilliards Chapter
Corydon Chapter	Hilliards, Ohio
Henderson, Kentucky	Dickson Chapter
Stockbridge Chapter	Dickson, Tennessee
Stockbridge, Massachusetts	Ooltewah Chapter
Lumberton Chapter	Ooltewah, Tennessee
Lumberton, Mississippi	LaGrange Chapter
Ozark Chapter, Ozark, Missouri	LaGrange, Texas
	Livingston Chapter
	Livingston, Texas

#### Honorable Mention

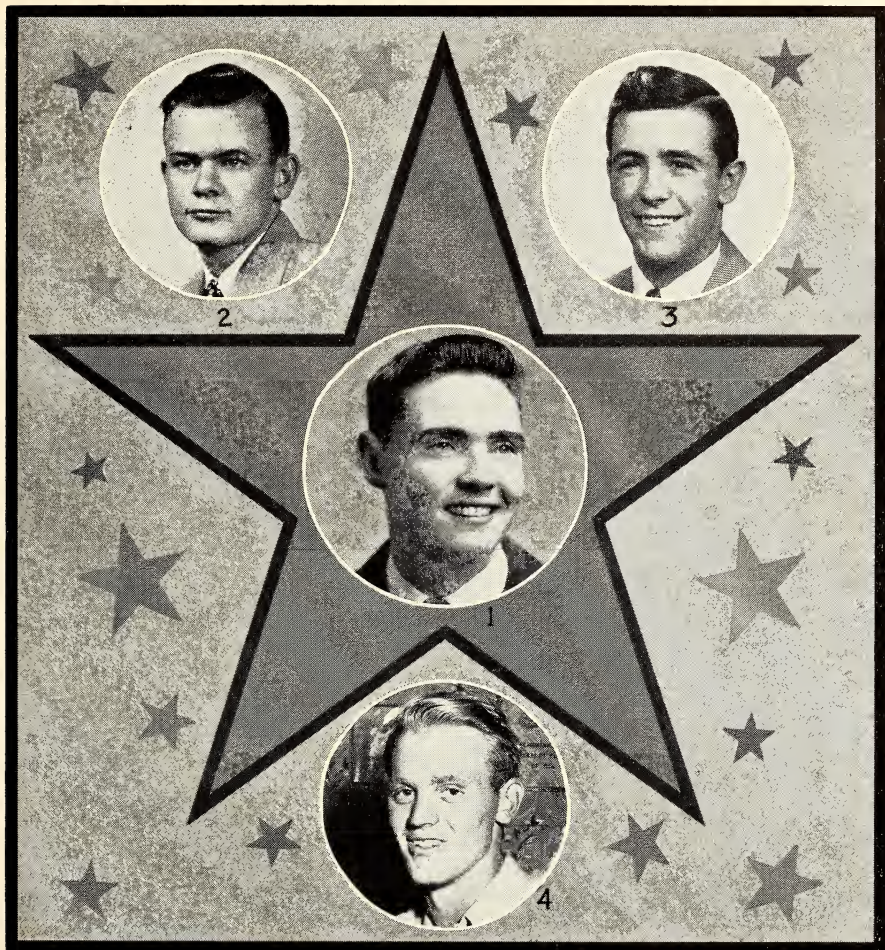
Harrison Chapter	Housatonic Valley Chapter
Harrison, Arkansas	Falls Village, Connecticut
Arvin Chapter	Lennox Chapter
Arvin, California	Lennox, South Dakota
North Troy-Newport Center	
Chapter, North Troy, Vermont	

Judges for the 1953 National Chapter Contest were: E. J. Johnson, Program Specialist in Agricultural Education, Pacific Region; R. E. Naugher, Program Specialist in Agricultural Education, Southern Region; A. W. Tenney, Program Specialist in Agricultural Education, Central Region; and H. N. Hansucker, Program Specialist in Agricultural Education, North Atlantic Region.



## Star Farmer Awards

Since 1929, Star Farmers have been selected annually from the American Farmer Candidates receiving the Degree at the time of the National FFA Convention. The records of outstanding candi-



(1)—STANLEY ALTON CHAPMAN  
Monroe, Washington  
1953 Star Farmer of America

(2)—MONROE KOTTWITZ  
Kingfisher, Oklahoma  
1953 Star Farmer of  
Southern Region

(3)—ROLLIN DALE BLOSSEY  
Williamston, Michigan  
1953 Star Farmer of  
Central Region

(4)—GRAYDON LEO LYONS  
Colebrook, New Hampshire  
1953 Star Farmer of  
North Atlantic Region



dates were reviewed by the following individuals: I. W. Wilson, President, Aluminum Company of America, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Karl D. Butler, Farm Counselor, Avco Manufacturing Corporation, Ithaca, New York; L. J. Purdy, Vice President in Charge of Trucks, Dodge Division, Chrysler Corporation, Detroit, Michigan; Robert Reed, Editor, "Country Gentleman", Independence Square, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Mr. Dean Bedford, Marketing Department, Esso Standard Oil Company, New York, New York; Raymond C. Firestone, Vice President, Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio; H. M. Cunningham, District Sales Manager, Lincoln-Mercury Division of Ford Motor Company, Washington, D. C.; Chester H. Lang, Vice President, General Electric Company, New York, New York; R. S. Reynolds, Jr., President, Reynolds Metals Company, Richmond, Virginia; L. M. Parsons, Vice President, United States Steel Corporation, Washington, D. C.; Roderick Turnbull, Editor, "The Weekly Star Farmer" Kansas City, Missouri.

### STANLEY ALTON CHAPMAN

#### Star Farmer of America

At 20 years of age, Star Farmer Stanley Chapman is responsible for the management of an 82-cow dairy farm located in the rich Snoqualmie River valley 12 miles south of Monroe and about 40 miles northeast of Seattle. He ships about 2,400 pounds of milk a day into the Seattle market.

Stanley's father died when the boy was 13 years old, leaving one-fourth interest in the 155 acre home farm to each of two sons, and one-half interest to their mother, Mrs. Elsie V. Chapman.

Stanley had developed a keen interest in farming long before that time. Given an orphan Hereford calf when he was five years, Stanley hand-fed it and eventually sold it for \$80 which he divided equally with his brother, Sanford, two years older. The calf was the beginning of Stanley's bank account. Later, Mr. Chapman began paying the boys ten to fifteen dollars a month for their help in doing the farm chores.

"My wages always ended up in my bank account," Stanley says.

Mr. Chapman spent most of his time buying and selling cattle, so dairying was a secondary interest on the farm until his death in 1947. Stanley was 13 years old at that time and Sanford, 15, already had begun studying vocational agriculture in the Monroe high school. The boys and their mother decided to keep the farm and operate it as partners.

They found competent help and advice in Allan Borlin, Monroe high school vocational agriculture instructor who made frequent visits to the farm in addition to working with the boys in school.

"Our farm consisted of poor pasture land, an old dairy barn, an old house; in fact, the entire farm was in poor condition," Stanley

said. "Since I entered high school we have remodeled the house, torn down old buildings and built a new hay barn, a new machine shed, a milking barn, and a garage."

The farmstead improvements were made possible by a comprehensive soil and livestock improvement program put into practice by the boys. Pastures were leveled, drained where needed, fertilized, and reseeded to bring about a big increase in forage production.

"Our 160 acres of land (they bought an additional 5 acres in 1949) would not support 52 cows," Stanley said. "We had to buy hay. Through pasture and land improvement the same acreage now supports 92 milk cows and ten heifers."

The partnership was broken up in 1952 when Sanford, who had married in 1950, decided that he did not want to stay in the business of farming. Stanley and Mrs. Chapman bought out Sanford's share and now operate on a three-eighths, five-eighths partnership basis.

Stanley had planned to go to college and major in agriculture, but decided he had a full-time job and a good future at home.

"Since my brother left the farm," he said, "we have had a hired man the year-round and at silage-making time we need fourteen additional men. It is my responsibility to organize and supervise the work of the hired men."

Bert L. Brown, Olympia, state supervisor of vocational agriculture, confirms Stanley's statement: "The day I visited the farm a crew of fourteen men, besides the regular hired man, were putting up grass silage. This was the second day of silage making, and the crew and machinery were working like clockwork. They will put up about 1,000 tons of silage. Stanley was handling his duties as well as any mature man could.

Young Chapman has begun a program of improving the quality of his dairy herd by use of better bulls and selection of heifers from the top producing cows. He also has bought some registered Holstein cows.

That he and one hired man are able to milk 80 or more cows twice a day is a tribute to Stanley's program of mechanization and labor-saving arrangement of barns and equipment. His most recent acquisition is equipment for handling the milk in bulk. Milk is piped directly from the cows through a cooler and into a large stainless steel tank where it is kept at a uniform low temperature until the truck comes to haul it to market. A pump moves it out of the tank into the hauling truck.

The system eliminates handling heavy cans, and in addition to saving labor, helps to keep the milk clean and of high quality. Stanley was the first farmer in the Washington Milk Producers Association to install the bulk handling equipment.

Modern machinery is used in the fields, too. The line of equipment includes four tractors, three trucks, hay baler, field chopper, manure spreader, fertilizer spreader, feed mill, and other implements.

"We have an adequate machine shop, and the hired man and I keep the machines in a good state of repair," Stanley said. "I can and do operate all the machines on the farm and I see that the hired help operate all machines correctly and safely."

But mechanization doesn't take all the work out of dairy farming. Stanley's day starts at 3:30 to 4:00 a.m. During busy seasons he'll be working until well after dark in the evening. While he was in high school he found time to hold several FFA chapter offices and to play on the school's basketball team, still keeping his grades in the upper fourth of his class. He served on the student council, was a member of the senior play cast, member of the chorus, and student body president during his senior year in 1950-51.

"My activities were limited because of my heavy work schedule at home and the fact that I had to drive 12 miles to school," he says.

Stanley's hard work and intelligent planning have paid off. He figures the value of his share of the land, buildings, machinery, cattle, and other assets at \$88,604.35. He still owes \$4,072.41 to complete payment for Sanford's share in the farm, leaving his net worth at \$84,531.94. Subtracting the \$13,800 value of his inheritance from that figure shows his earnings from farming, including increase in the value of his inventory, to be more than \$70,000.

### GRAYDON LEO LYONS

#### Star Farmer—North Atlantic Region

Winner of the Star American Farmer award for the North Atlantic region comprising 12 States, Graydon Leo Lyons owns a 35-cow dairy farm in northern New Hampshire. Starting from scratch when he entered vocational agriculture at Colebrook Academy in 1946, Graydon now estimates the net worth of his farming enterprise at more than \$13,000.

The path hasn't been easy. When Graydon was a sophomore in high school pranksters cut down a hedge on the school property. Graydon was found to be among the culprits and when his father was informed of the action, he took the boy out of school and "sentenced" him to hard work on the home farm.

Graydon already had started a farming program consisting of a brood sow and litter, and four Holstein heifers. His vocational agriculture instructor, George S. Frizzell, continued to make regular visits to the farm to help Graydon with his projects. The lad also continued to attend regular meetings of the Colebrook FFA chapter.

At the beginning of the next school year Frizzell and the school principal convinced Mr. Lyons that he should permit Graydon to re-enter school. There were no more pranks. The New Hampshire farm boy settled down to the serious business of learning all he could about agriculture, and to expanding his farming program at home.

Mr. Lyons was impressed. In 1949 he took Graydon into the home farming business as a full partner, with an agreement to



share all expenses and to use the net profit for new equipment and other farm improvements. By the time he graduated from high school in 1951 Graydon had earned \$5,095 from farming and about \$4,000 more from other farm work and hauling pulp logs.

Meantime, Graydon had become recognized as an outstanding leader by his fellow FFA members in Colebrook Academy. He was elected vice president of the chapter for 1948-49 and president for 1949-50. During the year he served as president, the chapter raised enough money to send the entire FFA membership to the 1950 national FFA convention in Kansas City, followed by a 4,100 mile tour that touched 22 States.

During the 1949-50 school year the townspeople of Colebrook decided they needed better facilities for vocational agriculture and the FFA. The local school board appointed a building committee and requested the FFA chapter to appoint three of its members to work with them. Graydon was elected chairman of the FFA committee. They met with the adult building committee and visited new buildings in three States. A modern building constructed for the exclusive use of vocational agriculture and the FFA, is now on the school campus.

Earl H. Little, Concord, State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture, described two of the joint committee meetings that he attended: "The FFA members told what they felt was needed. This is the first time, to my knowledge, that youth had been given an opportunity to express themselves regarding building and equipment needs in New Hampshire. Under Graydon's leadership the entire chapter spent many meetings discussing their needs which they finally got."

Graydon's farming program continued to grow. Working with his father, he turned his first interest to dairying, despite the fact that hogs had paid well during his early years. The cow stable was remodeled, an electric gutter cleaner was installed, and a modern manure pit was constructed. A silo was built to store succulent grasses and cut feed costs.

Graydon received the second serious setback to his plans shortly after his graduation from high school when Mr. Lyons died suddenly of a heart attack. Though he formed a partnership with his mother, the full responsibility of operating and managing the farm had fallen on Graydon's shoulders.

Last spring when Graydon became 21 he made arrangements to pay Mrs. Lyons \$12,000 for her share, at the rate of \$100 a month. She still lives on the farm, keeping house for Graydon. He now owns outright 215 acres of land, 57 head of cattle, and about \$11,000 worth of farm machinery, equipment and buildings. He has half interest in another 250 acres, and rents 65 acres. Of the total 530 acres that Graydon operates, about 200 acres is in crop land, 179 acres in pasture, and 156 acres in timber.

He owns a tractor, baler, ensilage cutter, manure spreader, and other farm implements. Graydon swaps work with his brother who farms five miles away and occasionally swaps work with a neighbor for use of machinery. He hires one man to work full time and has an FFA member who works for him mornings and evenings during the school term and full time in summer.

Considerable work has been done renovating the old pastures to make them produce more forage. Graydon likes to use grass for silage and he's increasing the production of grain to avoid the necessity of buying concentrates for his cattle.

Though he's farming full time now, Lyons has kept up his activities in the Future Farmers of America organization. He served as vice president of the Granite State FFA Association for 1951-52, and was elected State president last spring. In addition to being an award winner at Kansas City, he is one of the two official delegates from New Hampshire, with the right of participating and voting in FFA convention business matters.



#### 1953 STAR FARMERS

A scene from the program which featured the presentation of the Star American Farmer Awards. After the presentation of awards, the wives and parents of the Star Farmers were called to the platform and introduced.

#### ROLLIN DALE BLOSSEY

Star Farmer—Central Region

Rollin Dale Blosssey, of Route 2, Williamston, Michigan, winner of the Star American Farmer award for the Central Region, literally parlayed a pig into full establishment in farming.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Blosssey, Rollin bought a registered Duroc gilt for his vocational agriculture project when he entered high school at Williamston in the fall of 1947. She farrowed

nine pigs, and Rollin fattened them out with corn and oats from four acres of crop projects. His profits for the year totalled \$700.

"When I completed my first projects, I re-invested my income in my next year's projects," Rollin says. "As my high school years went by and projects were completed, I kept building up my projects and bought a tractor and farm tools."

It's not the fastest way to get established in farming, but if you start early, as Future Farmers do, it often leads to success. Rollin Blossey, who celebrated his 20th birthday October 23, operates a 100-acre farm of his own and has a partnership or share interest in an additional 185 acres.

The record of his farming program shows 28 hogs and one-fifth interest in 15 acres of corn and 14 acres of oats raised during his sophomore year in school. Next year it was 10 hogs and full ownership of four acres each of wheat, oats and corn. For his senior year he had 18 hogs, 10 acres of corn, 10 acres of oats, and one-third share of 33 acres of wheat.

His income from farming during those four years totalled \$3,292.42.

When Rollin graduated from high school in 1951, his two brothers already were farming in partnership with Mr. Blossey. There simply wasn't enough land to go around, so Rollin began looking for a spot where he could farm. An operator was needed for a nearby 135-acre farm owned by Edwin Weigant, and the two got together to form a 50-50 partnership. Rollin borrowed money from the bank to buy his share of a breeding herd of Hereford cattle to stock the farm. He already had bought a tractor and equipment from his earnings.

In the spring of 1952 Mr. Blossey bought a 100-acre farm and formed a partnership with Rollin to operate it. Last January Rollin made arrangements with his father to buy the land for \$20,000, making regular payments and paying five percent interest on the balance.

With that setup, his 1953 farming program included 60 pigs, 3 sows, 12 ewes, 10 lambs, 20 acres of wheat, 15 acres of oats, 18 acres of corn, 11 acres of alfalfa, ladino and brome grass hay, and 10 acres of permanent pasture, all on the farm he owns. He's holding 20 high quality gilts to farrow next spring.

He had 50 percent interest with Mr. Weigant in 10 Hereford cattle and their calves, a bull, 15 acres of wheat, 44 acres of oats, 15 acres of corn, 20 acres of alfalfa and clover hay, and four acres of rye.

Rollin has a share crop arrangement with two other land owners for raising 50 acres of wheat.

All together, when he totalled up his records last spring to file his application for the FFA American Farmer degree, Rollin found his farming assets were worth \$28,956.50. He owed \$17,800 mostly



on the 100-acre farm. His cash situation was stretched pretty thin, but that was before the wheat came in and before his pig crop was sold.

He still doesn't own enough equipment to farm his 271 acres, so works for his father for the use of his tools. As soon as possible, he wants to buy enough equipment for his own needs.

Rollin's leadership record is just as good as his farming. He has served as reporter and president of the Williamston FFA chapter, secretary of his area FFA unit, and vice president of the Michigan State FFA association. He has also been active in 4-H Club, was vice president of his junior class in high school, president of the local Junior Farm Bureau, and lettered in high school baseball.

### MONROE KOTTWITZ

#### Star Farmer—Southern Region

Two miles north of Kingfisher, Oklahoma, on the west side of U. S. Highway 81, is a neat sign that reads: "Monroe Kottwitz—Berkshire hogs—2 miles west." This is home for Monroe and Beverly Kottwitz.

Monroe, 20 years old and the FFA's "Star Farmer of the South", is solidly established in farming. He graduated from high school in 1951 and is now farming a rented 480-acre farm, adjoining the home farm on which he was born and reared.

Young Kottwitz "settled down" after finishing school when he married Beverly McCully, his high school sweetheart. Beverly was a city girl and worked as a bookkeeper in town, a job which she still holds but will give up soon.

She found right off that her bookkeeping ability would come in handy, for she helps Monroe keep all his farm accounts and records on his Berkshire breeding business. Their record keeping paid off last year.

Monroe was recognized by the American Berkshire Association by having his name placed on the association's Honor Roll for registering more Berkshire hogs than any breeder in Oklahoma. He also was listed among the top Berkshire breeders in the United States.

Kottwitz farms 87 acres of wheat, 14 acres of oats, 14 acres of maize and 168 acres of corn. His main agricultural interest, however, is his herd of registered Berkshire hogs. He now has 73 head. But like most farmers in his neighborhood, Monroe believes in putting his eggs in more than one basket. He also owns 34 head of beef cattle, and 70 chickens.

His figures show that at the present time his net worth is \$9,281.07. And in addition to his livestock, he owns a tractor, new pickup truck, the usual farm equipment, and three movable hog houses. Beverly is quick to remind him, too, of the "house full of

brand-spanking new furniture." The holdings were built up gradually over the years that have elapsed since he began studying vocational agriculture at Kingfisher high school in 1947.

Monroe and Beverly will have plenty of plaques and scrolls to show their new son, Monroe Carl, Junior, or "Butch" as he is better known. Monroe was selected by the Kingfisher County Farm Bureau to receive its plaque as the outstanding boy in the Kingfisher FFA chapter. And last year Monroe was handed the Enid News-Eagle award as the top FFA boy in northwest Oklahoma.

He received his Junior Master Farmer degree, the State's highest FFA degree, in 1951.

There will be ribbons, too. He had the grand champion Berkshire boar at the Oklahoma State Fair; the champion Berk barrow and won the Royal plaque for the champion sire on his barrows at the American Royal at Kansas City. Because of his all-around ability as a showman, Governor Johnston Murray made him an honorary Commodore in the Oklahoma Navy.

Monroe was president of the Kingfisher FFA chapter in 1951 and was a delegate to the State and national conventions from his chapter. The young man's ability as a leader was shown last year when he was supervisor of the swine division of the Kingfisher County Stock show, and officer of the Kingfisher Skeet club, president of the Kingfisher County Junior Swine Breeders' Association and a member of the Kingfisher County Farm Bureau, the county Coyote Round-Up club and the Co-op elevator.

Monroe is quick to give credit to his training in the FFA and the help he has received from his vocational agriculture teacher, Rodger Howell, for much of his success. "The training that I have received in vocational agriculture and the FFA has played an important part in helping to provide a good foundation for my farming program through supervision and learning to do by doing", he says.

Monroe and Beverly are dreaming of the home of their own they hope to build some day on land that will be theirs. Monroe would like to buy a farm near his father's place, because in a few years he will have responsibility for farming the home farm as well as his own.

## Public Speaking Contest

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The Annual National FFA Public Speaking Contest was first made possible in 1930 through the interest and generosity of Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas who, for two years sponsored the event and offered prizes. From that time until 1944 the national organization of Future Farmers of America was the sponsor. During the past nine years the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Incorporated, sponsored the contest and gave the awards.

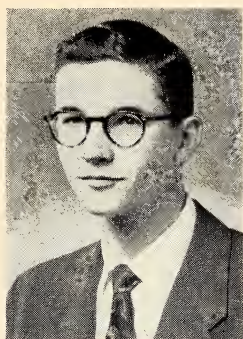
The Twenty-fourth National FFA Public Speaking Contest took place in the Main Arena of the Municipal Auditorium on Monday, October 12. The five finalists placing in the order indicated were:

1. Philip Anderson, Jr., Marked Tree, Arkansas—"The Benevolent Monster"
2. Roger Adamson, Cherryvale, Kansas—"Our Soil and Our Freedom"
3. Richard Kuga, Honolulu, Hawaii—"Farmers, Let's Cooperate"
4. Richard Whetsell, Kingwood, West Virginia—"Today's Dreams—Tomorrow's Realities"
5. Dan True, Twin Falls, Idaho—"Conservation of the Farm"

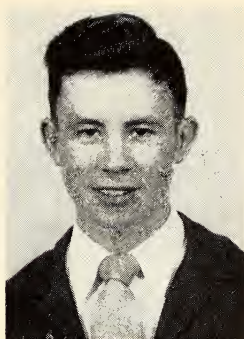
Each contestant was the author of his own speech, having studied his subject, prepared the draft and practiced its delivery. Each speech represented original thought and original work on the part of the contestant, with coaching on composition and delivery limited, by the rules of the contest, to facilities of the school from which the contestant came. Each boy was at liberty to choose his own subject.

The contest was judged by three competent persons. Prior to the contest the judges were furnished with typewritten copies of the contestant's productions which they read and graded on content and composition. At the contest the judges scored each contestant on his production. A maximum of 300 points was allowed for the written production and 700 points for delivery. Questions were asked by the judges to test each contestant on his ability to think on his feet and on general knowledge of his subject.

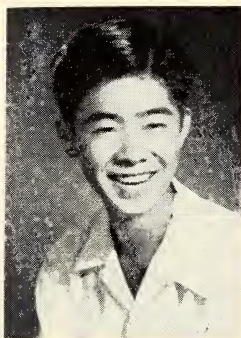




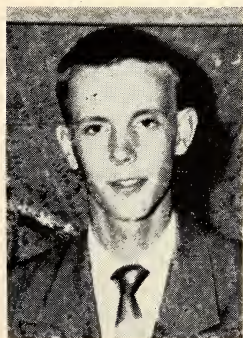
PHILLIP ANDERSON, JR.



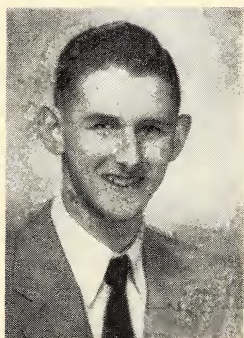
ROGER ADAMSON



RICHARD KUGA



RICHARD WHETSELL



DAN TRUE

The judges were:

- M. D. Mobley, Secretary, American Vocational Association, Washington, D. C.
- W. A. Ross, Special Assistant to the Director of the Training and Education Office, Civil Defense Administration, Washington, D. C.
- Oliver S. Willham, President, Oklahoma Agricultural & Mechanical College, Stillwater, Oklahoma

The timekeepers were:

- Duward DeWitt, Youth Director, Consumers Cooperative Association, Kansas City, Missouri
- Max W. Foresman, Director of Public & Employee Relations, Spencer Chemical Company, Kansas City, Missouri

### THE BENEVOLENT MONSTER

By Philip Anderson, Jr., Marked Tree, Arkansas

In discussing related phases of our history, we find that in order to tell the story of cotton we must use large statements and even larger figures, because cotton itself is a word of unusual proportions today. Cotton enters into the daily life of more of the world's peoples than any other product except salt.

Cotton has grown from a poor, scrawny, hand-seeded crop—a strictly subsistence crop—into a prodigious and benevolent monster, providing jobs and security for millions of people, and helping the United States to become the richest and most stable nation in the world.

The history of the entire world for the past two hundred years has been shaped by the ability of countries to produce and process cotton fiber, and by their need for using it.

Eli Whitney industrialized cotton when he invented the cotton gin in 1783. Up to that time the fiber and the cottonseed were separated by hand, and the farmer grew only what could be seeded by the family. But with the invention of the cotton gin it was not a question of the manufacturer's producing what was grown, but rather the producing of what could be grown.

In our own American history we find that cotton played a major role in the development of the country. Americans entered Mexican territory to find fertile land for raising cotton. They became displeased and angered at the resulting political friction, and the war that followed brought about the annexation of Texas. Our own frontier was widened and enlarged by farmers looking for more land on which to grow cotton. The political and social friction that later developed over the use of slaves in the cotton fields resulted in the War between the States.

The importance of cotton in the history of this country is clearly seen; and the importance of cotton to the textile industry is undeniably evident in this statement: Cotton is to textiles what iron is to metals. Cotton is the common denominator of the textile industry.

There are two reasons for cotton's importance to textiles. Cotton is technologically suited for a wide range of products—it is extremely versatile. Cotton is truly the chameleon of fibers. There are synthetic fibers than can duplicate one characteristic of cotton—perhaps some that can duplicate even two, but there is no synthetic fiber in existence that can incorporate all of the desirable characteristics of cotton. Cotton has an excellent all-around combination of properties. The tensile strength of cotton, the ability to resist tearing, is perhaps the most outstanding of these. And while other fibers lose their strength when exposed to moisture, cotton is strengthened when wet. To the consumer this means greater launderability. Fabrics made of cotton also have dimensional stability. Cotton fibers can be controlled by mechanical means to insure less than one percent shrinkage, so chemical impregnation is unnecessary.

The ability of cotton fabrics to resist wear has long been recognized. This property is perhaps best demonstrated by the fact that shoelaces—constantly subjected to friction and abrasion—are made of cotton. The ability of cotton to absorb moisture rapidly is incorporated by the manufacturers of bath towels; and the ability of cotton to be waterproofed is used by the manufacturers of tents, awnings and raincoats.

Cotton is preferred in the manufacture of cord and machinery belts because it will bend and flex easily for long periods of time without fraying.

The second reason that cotton has such a hold on the world fibers market is the fact that cotton can be grown in large quantities at relatively low costs.

As a result of these two reasons, cotton is the most important cash crop in the United States.

The arms of this benevolent monster cradle millions of people—white and black—and in the hands of Cotton are held the futures of many lives. But the threat of synthetic fibers is ever present in the mind of the cotton farmer. Despite the all-around qualities of cotton, more or less “specialized” synthetic fibers have crept into the world markets and now threaten to reduce the importance of cotton. In 1900, the first year rayon entered the market, cotton was 81% of the world's fiber output; in 1950 cotton was only 68% of the world's fiber supply. At first glance we see a bleak future for cotton. But in reality, the future of cotton is only what we make it.

Cotton was once used very successfully in the manufacture of tire cords. Cotton was well suited for this because of several physical properties—flexibility, resistance to wear, and resistance to friction and abrasion. Now rayon is used because it is cheaper. It is cheaper because millions of dollars were spent annually in looking for a way



to make rayon cheaper than cotton. Millions of dollars for research are still being invested in synthetic fibers yearly in an effort to make synthetic fibers better than natural fibers. An enormous amount is spent on synthetics compared to the money invested in cotton research. It will not be many months before the cotton industry realizes that it must plow profits back into research as well as into additional machinery.

And now, with cotton, one of this nation's largest industries, providing employment for millions of people, we cannot let cotton glide and coast along under its own power. We must also realize that a lack of education is holding back from natural progress the cotton country and cotton itself. We must rely on the scientific findings that have been contributed to save the farmlands that are being ruined, and increase the bale-per-acre output of the farms that are saved. A man who quits school in the seventh grade cannot do this. The days of the illiterate farmer are fading; the man who refuses to make use of the agricultural knowledge offered will soon find that the monster that once cradled him—will crush him. Ignorance cannot control cotton because cotton is a crop that promises more and offers less and promises less and offers more, than any other crop in the history of the world, because cotton is a crop that has created poverty and degradation and at the same time created wealth, culture, and educational means for the people that produce it. Education is the grease for the wheels of progress.

If I were asked my opinion of the future of cotton, I should say the future of the United States and the Future of Cotton run parallel courses. As cotton is improved and the horizon of cotton in textiles is broadened by new developments in science, so will the United States become more stable and enriched by the cultural benefits of cotton profits. New machinery, new farming methods, new techniques and new ideas will all add to the growth of this nation. But the enrichment will come only when the farmer learns to use knowledge and wisdom in co-ordination with his hands, because the hand of the farmer is the heart of America.

### OUR SOIL AND OUR FREEDOM

By Roger Adamson, Cherryvale, Kansas

Sixteen years ago on the night of November the sixth, old Doc Norman drove out to a farm in Montgomery County, Kansas, and delivered a fine bouncing boy. For that I am truly thankful, because that boy was I. For the first few years of my life, I, like all other American boys, just took things for granted. But as I have grown older, I have begun to realize more and more that I, as well as every other American farm boy, have much for which to be thankful.

While listening to the radio and reading our newspapers, I shudder when I think of what my lot would be now if I had been born in Russia, China, or any one of the Communist dominated

countries. Therefore, one of the most important things for which I am thankful is that I am an American, born at the beginning of what I choose to call a new era in Agriculture.

What has brought about this new era? There are many things contributing to its development. Definitely, such things as our modern farm machinery, our new and improved crops and our enlarged farming programs have aided. However, I believe that the idea of soil conservation is doing more to bring permanent prosperity to agriculture than any other factor.

When our pioneer forefathers landed on this continent and begun tilling the soil, they seemingly operated on the theory that our land resources were inexhaustible. At that time new land was plentiful. When a farm was worn out, it was abandoned, and the farmer moved farther west, where new land could be obtained readily and farmed profitably. This practice was continued until the late eighteen hundreds when the farmer had reached the Pacific and was brought to the realization that the supply of virgin farm land had been exhausted.

Since the first furrow was plowed in America over three-hundred years ago, our soil has suffered a gradual loss of fertility due to continuous cropping and lack of conservation practices. During these years the farmer has taken everything possible from the soil and returned relatively nothing. Millions of tons of earth have been permitted to wash down the slopes, into the small streams, the rivers, and finally the ocean.

On April sixth, nineteen hundred seventeen, the United States was drawn into World War I. The farmers were called upon to produce larger quantities of foodstuffs for the Allied Armies. It was then, for the first time they realized that their soil was not as fertile as it had once been.

Thank God, we were able to come through the war victorious; however, the increased cropping programs drastically taxed the fertility of our soils.

In 1929 came the crash of the stockmarkets, and our country entered into the great depression. Little thought was given to our soil during this period until the 'black blizzards' of the mid-thirties brought to the attention of the American farmer the inescapable fact that our soil is the lifeblood of America; that our independence and our opportunities stem from the soil, because our food, our clothing, our shelter, all come from the soil.

Back in the early thirties, about the time I made my first appearance in this world, the idea of soil conservation was just coming into importance.

In 1935, Congress established the Soil Conservation Service, the first attempt by any national government to halt the appalling

losses of soil and soil-fertility. The program of the Soil Conservation Service was built carefully on the sound foundation of scientific research, devotion to our land, and the co-operation of farmers.

The founders of the Soil Conservation Act realized that each farm presented a separate and distinct problem. They knew you couldn't just take a group of practices, thrust them in a farmer's face and say, "Here, these will build up your soil." No, the Soil Conservation Service drew up separate plans for each farm, taking into consideration the complex problems this farm presented. They also realized that the farmer would have to do the conservation job himself; the government couldn't do it for him, even though they were willing to assist financially through payments made by the Production and Marketing Administration. This meant that the Soil Conservation Service had to be de-centralized into local control and management. This was done through locally organized and farmer-operated soil conservation districts. These local districts are supervised by farmers in the local community.

The Soil Conservation Districts have sponsored practices such as terracing, contouring, strip-cropping and other more or less permanent conservation practices aimed at building up our soil and its fertility.

The Soil Conservation Service has worked with the Extension Service and the Production and Marketing Administration in completing nearly a third of the total conservation jobs, a job that man has been more than three-hundred years in making.

We have made a good beginning in regaining our soil fertility, but we are only now approaching the main part of the problem. It is true that one-third of our conservation job has been accomplished, but, do we truly realize the immensity of the job ahead? The majority of the conservation jobs that have been carried out were on farms where the conservation problems had not yet gotten out of control. These farms were comparatively easy to rebuild, but what about the countless acres where water has been allowed to gush down the unprotected slopes for the last twenty years or longer, carving vast gullies and carrying with it our fertile topsoil? What about the fifty-million acres where no efforts have been made to reclaim them and they can no longer be used for cultivation? And what about a second fifty-million acres from which fifty per cent of the topsoil has been lost?

We talk in big words. We tell the public that we are on the high road in the fight against soil losses. We like to tell the story of the improvements that have been made on the farm that grandfather once owned. He cleared the land and raised crops on the same field year after year, apparently with little thought that the soil would lose its fertility. He cut the trees and set no replacements. His fields



lay bare during the winter without cover crop. Brush and sprouts covered his pastures, trash and leaves filled the springs. He raised grain crops repeatedly until production was low. Yes, grandfather worked hard during his lifetime but accumulated only the bare necessities of life.

Today the grandson is operating that farm. It is laid out in contour strips with rotating crops and he is adding lime and fertilizer. The land is producing better crops; the verdant green pastures blend smoothly with the blue sky; sparkling water trickles from the spring to the water trough; all forms of wild life find a haven in the multi-flora rose fencing; bass and blue-gill are very plentiful in the farm pond which he has built. Electric power has come to the farm where electric appliances have taken the drudgery from work, leaving more time for recreation and participation in community activities.

This is the story that is played up to our American public today, but when the truth of the matter is known, there are very few farms that look like the one I just pictured for you. You can drive through Kansas and only about one out of ten of the farms you see will even begin to measure up to this ideal.

If we expect to make satisfactory progress, we must first of all realize that the conservation job is a long way from being completed. Each farmer must work in close cooperation with the Land Grant Colleges through the Extension and other services. He must work in close cooperation with the Soil Conservation District on programs for retaining and rebuilding our soil.

In view of the enormous job ahead of us, we cannot on the basis of our past accomplishments in the conservation field lean back in the easy chair on our front porch and say with the rich fool, "Soul, thou hast much good laid up for many years, take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry."

History teaches us that any nation that permits its soil to become depleted loses its prosperity, its security, and its independence. Even though we are told that we are on the high road in the fight against the losses of soil and soil fertility, we cannot relax; even though we are building a new economy, based on proper land usage, we now know that our soils can be exhausted. Few virgin soils remain.

Our soil is our heritage to be passed on to the next generation, better than it came to us. Yes, on our soil depends the progress of America, and that progress is in our trust. Soil conservation is an obligation of every American interested in the preservation of freedom and security for the generations of tomorrow.

Let's save our freedom, our prosperity, our opportunities,—our American way of life. Let's save our soil.

**FARMERS, LET'S COOPERATE!**

By Richard Kuga, Honolulu, Hawaii

Once there were several brothers who spent much of their time quarreling among themselves. As a result of these disagreements and the failure to help each other, they did not accomplish much work. Finally, their father called them together. He showed them several sticks which he had gathered. He took these sticks one by one and broke them easily. Then he took some sticks of the same size and number as before and tied them together securely in a bundle. He passed the bundle from one son to the other and asked each in turn to try to break it. Not one was able to do so. By this simple demonstration, the sons were convinced that in group effort there is strength.

Because America has always been a fruitful agricultural country, early American farmers were able to maintain their individual status effectively and to work at their problems independently. But as the population and the country grew in size, the demands and problems in the farming business increased. Other basic industries had grown to gigantic proportions with highly organized corporations while farming had remained an unorganized piece-meal affair.

At the turn of the century, a change began to occur in agriculture. Farmers and their neighbors formed cooperative organizations to help solve their mutual problems. They realized that rugged individualism placed them at a great disadvantage in the commercial markets. The philosophy of strength in a bundle of individual sticks began to take hold in farming life.

I believe that today, we can see the results of the cooperative movement of the past thirty years. More than half of the farmers in the U. S. are now members of cooperatives. Approximately 90% of the produce going to market is sold through cooperatives. A report published in 1946-47 by the Farm Credit Administration showed that there were 10,125 farmers' cooperative associations, of which 7,268 were engaged mainly in marketing farm products and 2,857 in purchasing supplies.

In the days when our nation was young, marketing farm products was a fairly simple operation. The farmer knew and dealt personally with his customers. Today, the individual farmer is confronted with a problem of transporting his goods many miles, selling his goods to people whom he does not know and who do not know him, and in dealing with large wholesalers. As an individual, he finds it difficult to solve his problems efficiently. The same farmer, together with his neighbors, as members of a modern efficiently run cooperative, has big business power to deal in a world of big business. This collective power is one of the primary values of cooperatives. The farmer does not relinquish any of his inherent rights as an independent farmer because he is still responsible for maintain-

ing an efficient management of his farm and deciding policies of his cooperative.

Today, purchasing, marketing, rural electrification cooperatives are a few of the many kinds in operation. We can trace many advancements in farming to cooperatives. The standardization of quality is one of the most important. Careful packing and grading have meant uniform products which can command confidence of all consumers. Cooperatives have helped in stabilizing production. Such information as market trends, crop production reports, and weather forecasts can be analyzed and clarified. Cooperative marketing has permitted the farmers to spend more time in growing their crops and has reduced marketing costs. Electricity has been brought to isolated rural areas by rural electrification cooperatives. Livestock breeding cooperatives have produced better herds and better products.

Not all organizations have been successful. It would be quite remarkable if there were no failures in any human endeavor. Experience has shown, however, that failures in cooperatives are due to lack of understanding by their members and too poor management. Farmers must think and act in terms of the good of the organization. Since a cooperative is organized by farmers to provide collective services for farmers, all members must take an active interest in formulating policies. Living up to these policies at all times is a responsibility of every member. A capable staff must be hired. An efficient manager will tend to operate an efficient cooperative.

Although collective action among farmers has made tremendous progress, the task of cooperation in agriculture through farmers' cooperatives is not complete. There is much to be done.

Dr. James Shoemaker, Research Director of Bank of Hawaii, wrote in his 1950 report: "The expansion of truck gardening in Hawaii is dependent not only on production costs, but also in cooperation among producers in respect to production schedules, transportation, and marketing practices."

This necessity for the further development of cooperation among farmers in Hawaii is just an indication of the need throughout the nation. Statistics show that about 50% of our farmers do not belong to any cooperative organization. These farmers should join already functioning cooperatives or initiate new cooperatives. Young farmers and future farmers who are starting in or preparing for farming need to learn of the mechanics and values of cooperatives. Better understanding of the basic principles of cooperatives is needed in areas where cooperatives are ineffective. Present members must be educated on their responsibilities.

I believe that the key to successful farming today is cooperation. Like individual sticks tied securely to a bundle, a cooperative of individual farmers will have immeasurable strength.

Farmers, let's cooperate!



## TODAY'S DREAMS—TOMORROW'S REALITIES

By Richard Whetsell, Kingwood, West Virginia

Once upon a time a farmer was "just a farmer." But that day is past. Today if one wishes to be a good farmer, he must be able to cope with the problems of a business executive, a naturalist, a scientist, a mechanic, and a skilled laborer; but above all, he must have a belief in the future.

Although every farmer must find the answer to many pertinent questions in the course of a lifetime, there is one question that Future Farmers must answer during their youth—As Future Farmers, what are we to do? Since statistics show that only a small percentage of the high school graduates will receive advanced educational training, what is going to happen to the vast majority of us who will not be afforded this opportunity?

Every Future Farmer has dreams for tomorrow, but will all of these dreams become a reality? What can we look forward to in the years that lie ahead? Will we be satisfied with a mediocre farming situation? Will we be disillusioned by dreams of a rosy future without effort? Or will we endeavor to be a "Future Farmer Today—A Successful Farmer Tomorrow?" I believe that we are a very fortunate group; for I know of no other phase of American enterprise that holds a brighter outlook than farming. The future of American farming is wrapped up in the challenge agriculture faces to produce enough food to support a rapidly growing population and a hungry world.

The 1949-50 census decade shows a gain in population in the United States of nineteen and one-half million. This broke all records and disagreed with past predictions. The population experts are estimating a gain of approximately twenty million or a new increase of fourteen per cent during the 1950-60 decade. Food consumption is now thirteen per cent per person above that of the 1935-39 average. By 1960, it is estimated that just to feed our own people, we will need more than sixteen million additional tons of food each year.

In addition to feeding our people at home, we have taken on the job of furnishing food to the many hungry nations abroad. Our exports today are fifty per cent higher than they were from 1935-39. If we were to attempt to have enough food for everyone in the entire world and distribution could be worked out beforehand, there would be a need for twenty-one per cent more cereal, twenty-seven per cent more root crops, twelve per cent more sugar, thirty-four per cent more fats, eighty per cent more peas and beans, one hundred sixty-three per cent more fruits and vegetables, forty-six per cent more meats and one hundred per cent more milk. When summed up, these facts clearly illustrate that there will be an ever-growing demand for all agricultural products. My friends, this production

need is the challenge for us who are engaged in this honorable occupation today.

Having reviewed briefly the agricultural needs of the future, may I restate the number one question: "Can we as Future Farmers of today, attain our dreams of being successful farmers of tomorrow?"

Our high school training leads us to believe that if we properly dedicate ourselves, we can accomplish our goal. However, we must realize that the American farmer today stands at the crossroads of a most critical period in the history of American agriculture. We can not relax and rest upon the success of the past, for we must keep in mind that we never stand still. We move either forward or backward. In making our plans to move forward, we should take a lesson from the motorist who is getting ready to start a trip. The efficient traveler would equip himself with a road map showing the necessary routes. In his travel along the countryside, he would expect to see certain signs which would mark his progress toward his goal.

When the farmer maps out his route, the first milepost should read, "Educated Farmers"; the second, "Cooperative Effort"; the third, "Freedom of Individual Initiative"; for we here in America cherish the democratic principle that on matters of free enterprise, a person can think, plan, and act according to the dictates of his conscience. Last, but not least, of our mileposts, we who love the soil, upon which all humanity depends, would also have an eternal vigilance for the one which we would label "The Land Without Soil Erosion."

The automobile in which we as Future Farmers of Today and Successful Farmers of Tomorrow travel forward must be a new one. This vehicle we might call "Farmers' Dream Boat," for it shall be representative of our dreams come true. The white sidewall tires have written upon them these words: "The Progressive Farmer who works, plans and studies." Upon the spokes of the four wheels will be written the answers to the questions as to what goes to make up a successful farming program.

A few of these answers might be a good breeding program, contour farming, crop rotation, farm mechanization, disease and insect control, balanced rations, and the use of high yielding varieties. There are many more of these answers, but time will not permit me to go into detail.

The white sidewalls and the spokes will be held in tact by the axle, which is representative of Farm Management. After the car is made ready, the farmer in the driver's seat may be given the age old advice, "Heaven helps those who help themselves."

The Future Farmer wants to know and has the right to ask just what being a successful farmer of tomorrow has to offer him. First of all, farming is a most interesting work which will afford lifetime rewards commensurate with any other business when compared on

the same basis. Today modern conveniences available to the American farmer make the farm as desirable a place to live as the city, with health and food conditions even better than the city can offer. Better road conditions make almost any distance to town seem unimportant. There are no lay-offs on the farm, for the plant never closes its doors.

Energetic, industrious young men with initiative and originality have a place waiting for them in the field of agriculture. Our modern educational system is so designed that we can continue to learn as we earn by enrolling in a young farmer or an adult farmer class. In other words we might state it this way—"The Inquiring Mind and the Seeing Eye." It is a great satisfaction for the farmer to know that he has access to a source from which he can fill his inquiring mind with most recent agricultural developments and practices. After he has replenished his supply of knowledge and puts it into practice on the home farm, it is with much satisfaction that he can see his crops and livestock grow and develop into a product of which any farmer might be proud.

In conclusion, what are we to do about our dreams of being successful farmers of tomorrow? Henry Thoreau said, "If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he would meet with success unexpected in common hours."

Future Farmers, if we have built castles in the air concerning our dreams of becoming successful farmers, our work need not be lost; that is the place they should be. Now through our future farming programs, let's put the foundations under them.

### CONSERVATION OF THE FARM

By Dan B. True, Twin Falls, Idaho

Have you ever witnessed the financial shrinkage of a farm estate?

Do you realize that before your property can be passed to your children it will be subjected to costs and taxes which may cause them to become bankrupt? National averages show that estates shrink a third or more. Each of you has an estate—and often the smaller one can least afford the loss.

What preparation have you made to assure that your children will inherit the savings you have devoted your life to accumulate?

Consider the plight of John and Bill Farmer—

The Farmer boys are sitting at the desk of Mr. Henry Banker, life-long friend of their father. John and Bill are puzzled and hurt. Their backs are against the wall. They never needed financial assistance so desperately, and the sympathy of Henry Banker is a poor



substitute for the cash they must have. The Farmers have just been advised that the bank cannot loan them \$180,000. Why do John and Bill Farmer need to borrow that enormous amount of Money? Everyone knows that when the elder William Farmer died, just three years ago, the Farmer place was one of the best ranches in the valley. William and Mary Farmer spent their lives building the Farmer estate. They did not owe a cent. Then William had an accident and was killed.

The ranch with machinery and cattle was worth about \$500,000. Cash and bonds totaled over twenty-thousand more.

Few realized that before Mary and the boys could continue with the farming, taxes and costs ate up all the cash and bonds, plus more money that had to be borrowed from the bank. Actually, the costs at William's death had totaled \$42,000, but they had weathered it out, and the Farmer ranch went right along making money.

Last month Mary Farmer died—

Just yesterday were the final cash needs tabulated. These are:

1. Doctor, hospital bills, and funeral expenses for Mary.
2. Pro-rata income and property taxes must be paid.
3. Current operating expenses, notes and obligations must be settled.
4. Legal fees for probating the estate are due.
5. As is the charge for the administrator, together with court costs and appraisal fees.
6. Idaho inheritance taxes must be settled in full.
7. And greatest of all, the Federal property transfer tax is to be paid.

All of these costs and taxes must be paid at once, and in cash. Ironically, the law specified that these constitute a first mortgage, and must come ahead of the family.

For thirty years William Farmer had borrowed what he needed from Henry Banker, and always paid it back. His credit was excellent, but Henry Banker had never been asked for \$180,000 at one time, by William.

This amount equals over one-third of the total Farmer valuation, and with William's sons at the helm Henry Banker can't know what the future of the Farmer fortune may be. At any rate, this would not generally be considered a bankable loan.

Before going to the bank John and Bill had looked around to see what could be done. The Cattle could be sold, but the market is down and a forced sale would mean at least a \$15,000 loss. Maybe the machinery could be sold, but used machinery doesn't sell well, particularly when all the neighbors know it has to go. Anyhow, a sale of both cattle and machinery will net only half of the cash needed.

They could mortgage the land, but this will only raise sixty or seventy thousand dollars, and the mortgage will have to be paid in full, plus interest. How can they farm the place to pay a mortgage if they sell the cattle and machinery? John and Bill Farmer are faced with a problem for which there is no good answer.

A half a million dollar estate will be reduced by forty percent or more, depending on how well they can solve the problem inherited from William and Mary Farmer.

The tragedy of the story is that young John Farmer knows what should have been done, but the die is cast. It's too late. John knows there are tools available which his father could have used to conserve the farm—Estate planning tools such as: properly drawn wills, the use of gifts, and life insurance property. In fact, the facilities were all available, as were the services of an estate planning team composed of the trust officer, the attorney, the accountant, and the life underwriter. These experts could have planned with William Farmer so that today the boys would inherit all of the property, with the costs and taxes pre-paid.

The thing that makes John sick is the realization that through life insurance, the necessary cash could have been made available. The cost of this cash reserve might have been less than the interest on \$180,000.

However, while William Farmer lived he was too busy making money to heed the advice of forward looking friends who suggested estate planning. William always planned to look into it someday—someday when he could find time.

Today William is dead, and so is Mary—the time never came.

Will you be like William Farmer?

Will you procrastinate too long?

Are you aware of the danger?

All of you practice soil conservation. This is accepted as a necessary part of good farming. I submit that preserving the fer-

tility of the soil is futile; unless equally careful plans are made to preserve the future value of all of your assets.

This is called estate planning. If it isn't attended to while there is yet time, the result of your life's work will surely suffer needless financial loss.

What plans are you making? Mr. Farmer!







# FFA *Motto*

**"Learning to Do,  
Doing to Learn;  
Earning to Live,  
Living to Serve."**